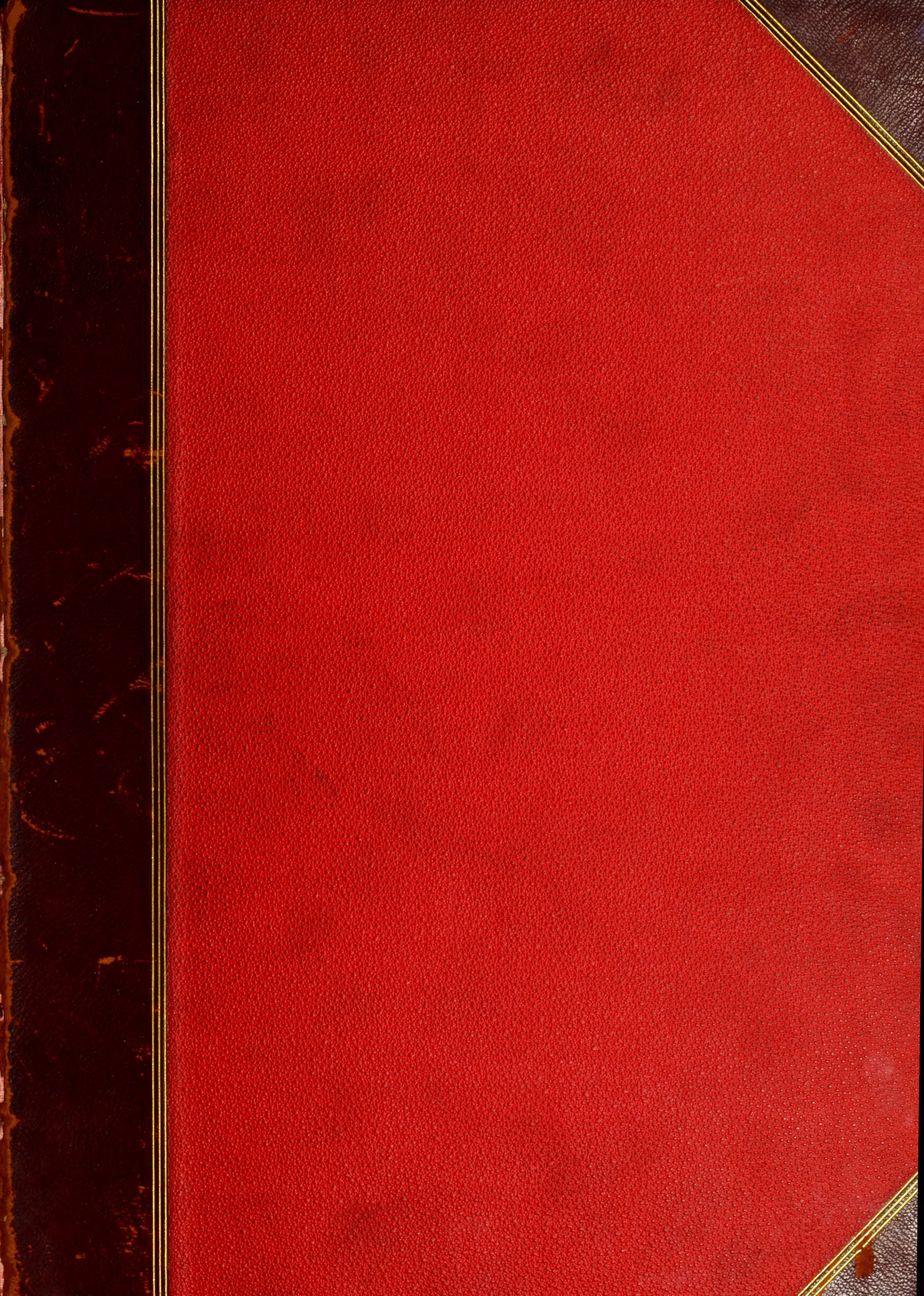




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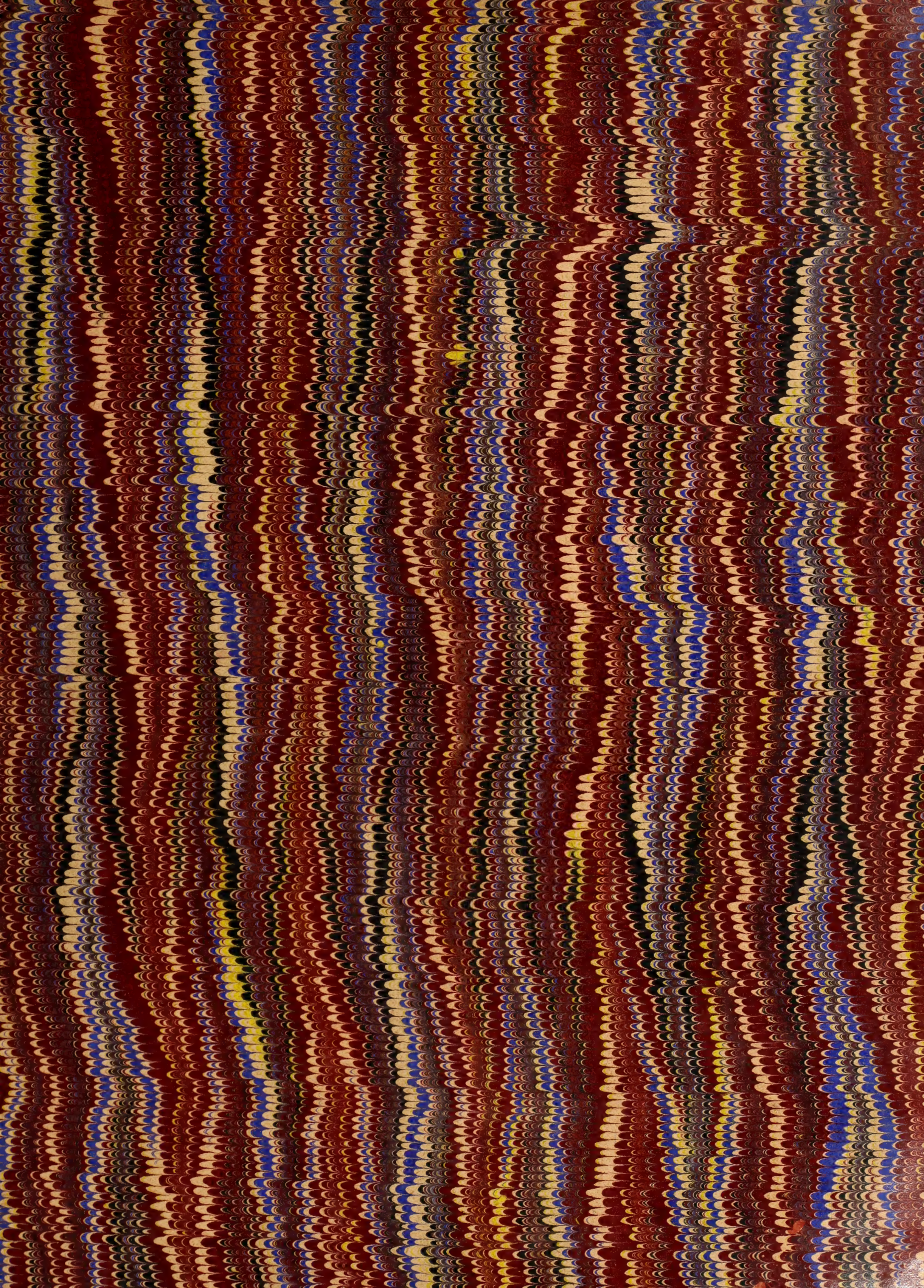
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THE
BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA,

COMPRISING

THREE HUNDRED FULL-PAGED ILLUSTRATIONS,

WITH

A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTERISTIC HABITS

OF

OVER SEVEN HUNDRED SPECIES,

BY

GRACIUS J. BROINOWSKI.

VOL. VI.

PUBLISHED BY CHARLES STUART & CO.,
MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, ADELAIDE, BRISBANE, NEW ZEALAND, AND TASMANIA.

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PLATE I.

GRAUCALUS SWAINSONII (*Gould*).

SWAINSON'S GRAUCALUS.

THIS species, named by Gould after the naturalist who first described it, is an inhabitant of Queensland, and the northern part of New South Wales.

Unlike the other members of the genus, it does not feed on insects, or at any rate to a very small extent, berries and Moreton Bay figs forming almost its sole food.

It breeds from October to December.

There is no difference in the plumage of the sexes. The lores are black; the head, upper-surface, wing-coverts, throat, and breast, grey; primaries and secondaries, black, margined with grey; tail, grey, tipped largely with black; abdomen, grey, crossed by short narrow bars of black; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey.

Habitats: Queensland, and New South Wales.

GENUS PTEROPODOCYS (*Gould*).

THE principal difference between this genus and the *Graucali* is that the only known member of it is terrestrial in habits, instead of arboreal.

PTEROPODOCYS PHASIANELLA (*Gould*).

GROUND GRAUCALUS.

THIS bird is found in most parts of the interior of Australia, frequenting principally plains and thinly timbered forest country. It is always seen on the ground, in small flocks, from two to eight in number.

Except when disturbed it uses its powers of flight very little, but can run along the ground very fast.

Its food consists of insects, and sometimes seeds or berries.

The sexes are alike in outward appearance. The head, neck, chest, and back, are grey, tinged with purple; wings, blackish-brown; bill, black, with the base and tips white; abdomen, very light buff; crossed near the chest and on the flanks with narrow bars of brown; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey.

Habitat: Interior of Australia.



PTEROPODOCYS PHASIANELLA (Gould)
Ground Graucalus.

GRAUCALUS SWAINSONII (Gould)
Swainson's Graucalus

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PLATE II.

GENUS CRACTICUS (*Vieillot*).

EVERY part of Australia is inhabited by at least one member of this genus. The different species of this genus and of the *Gymnokinæ* are very generally confused with one another, and go by the broad appellation of "Magpie."

CRACTICUS NIGROGULARIS (*Gould*).

BLACK-THROATED CROW-SHRIKE.

THE present species is an inhabitant of New South Wales and Victoria, frequenting principally open plains studded with large trees.

It is both arboreal and terrestrial in habits, resorting to the ground principally to obtain food, which consists both of the larger kinds of insects, and of mice and small birds. It associates usually in pairs, but sometimes in small groups of three or four, probably the offspring of one pair.

During the breeding season it is very fierce, and will fly down and peck at the heads of persons passing beneath the nest. A pair may often also be seen driving away a hawk, flying round, and now and then making a dart at him, and then eluding his claws with great agility. It is also a deadly enemy of all kinds of snakes.

It breeds from August to January, building a rather large nest of sticks and fine roots, which is placed on one of the lower branches of a high tree. The eggs are one inch and a-quarter long, and almost an inch broad. In colour they are dark buff, spotted with very dark brown, and sometimes with black. Two broods are reared in the season.

When in captivity this bird becomes very tame, and may be taught to whistle and talk, and very often becomes especially proficient in the use of profane language.

The sexes do not differ in the colouring of their plumage.

The head, neck and chest are black; the tail black, tipped with white; the back of the neck, shoulders, centre and edge of the wings, rump, and abdomen are white; the rest of the wing, black; irides, blackish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitat: New South Wales and Victoria.

CRACTICUS PICATUS (*Gould*).

PIED CROW-SHRIKE.

THE Pied Crow-Shrike, which, except for its much smaller size, exactly resembles the New South Wales species, is found in the northern part of Australia.

In its general habits and economy, as well as in its mode of nidification it does not differ from the *Cracticus Nigrogularis*.

A collar at the back of the neck, the shoulders, edge of the wing, rump, abdomen, and tips of the tail-feathers are white; the rest of the plumage, black; irides, blackish-brown; bill, dark grey; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.



1 *CRACTICUS NIGROGULARIS* (Gould)
Black-throated Crow-Shrike

2 *CRACTICUS PICATUS* (Gould)
Pied Crow-Shrike

G. J. Bozinowski Fecit.

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PLATE III.

CRACTICUS ARGENTEUS (*Gould*).

SILVERY-BACKED CROW-SHRIKE.

THE present species, which inhabits the north coast of Australia, in its plumage partakes of the characteristics of *Cracticus Nigrogularis* and *Cracticus Torquatus*, but has a distinctive feature of its own in the light grey colouring of the back.

In habits it does not differ from the two previously described members of the genus.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, shoulders and wings, are black ; tail-feathers, black, tipped with white ; back, light silvery-grey ; under surface, rump, and margins of the two middle secondaries, white ; bill, black ; irides, yellowish-brown ; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitat : North coast.

CRACTICUS TORQUATUS.

BUTCHER-BIRD.

THE whole of the southern portion of Australia constitutes the home of the present species, brushes and thickly timbered country being especially frequented by it.

It principally remains among the branches of trees, but sallies forth to obtain its food, which, like that of the other members of the genus, consists of large insects, worms, mice, and small birds, in fact of any kind of small animal which it can obtain.

Its note has no particular tune about it, but is, as Gould says, "a jumble of discordant sounds impossible to be described."

The breeding season lasts from September to the end of December, three eggs being laid in a nest constructed of small sticks and lined with fine fibrous roots. The eggs are dark buff, blotched and spotted with dark brown, or brownish-red. In length they are one inch and a-quarter, and in breadth eleven lines.

Like most of the Crow-Shrikes, the Butcher Bird becomes tame in captivity, and will learn to whistle almost any tune.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts and back of the neck are black ; the back and rump, brownish-grey ; basal portion of the wing-feathers brownish-grey, the rest dark brown, the two middle secondaries broadly margined with white ; tail, dark brown, all except the two middle feathers tipped with white ; under surface, greyish-white ; bill, horn-colour at the base, black at the tip ; irides, dark grey ; feet, blackish-brown.

The sexes are almost alike in plumage, the only difference being that the female is slightly duller in colouring.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



G J Brownark Fecit

1 CRACTICUS ARGENTEUS (Gould)
Silvery-backed Crow-Shrike

2 CRACTICUS TORQUATUS
Butcher Bird

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PLATE IV.

GENUS GYMNORHINA.

MEMBERS of this genus inhabit most parts of Australia except the northern portion, and one is found in Tasmania.

GYMNORHINA ORGANICUM (*Gould*).

TASMANIAN CROW-SHRIKE.

THE home of the present species is Tasmania, where it frequents the more open parts of the country.

It subsists on insects, caterpillars, and grubs, obtained chiefly on the ground, though when not seeking food, it remains mostly among the branches of high trees.

Its note, which may be heard nearly always immediately after daybreak, has caused the name of Organ-bird to be applied to it, as it is considered by a great many people to resemble the sound of a hand organ.

During the period of nidification, four eggs are laid in a nest constructed of sticks and strips of bark interwoven, and lined with fine grasses, wool, and feathers.

The eggs are one inch and five lines long, and one inch broad, and are light greenish-grey, with spots and blotches of dark brown, and a few of purplish-grey distributed over the surface.

There are some slight differences in the colouring of the sexes.

The male has the head, cheeks, under surface, scapularies, and tips of the tail-feathers, black; primaries, brownish-black; rest of the plumage, white; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, horn-colour; legs and feet, black.

The female differs in having the back of the neck and back, grey.

Habitat: Tasmania.

CRATICUS QUOYII.

QUOYS CROW-SHRIKE.

THIS species of Crow-Shrike inhabits the North Coast of Australia, and is also found in New Guinea.

It frequents only the thickest parts of the forest, and is generally seen among the dense mangrove swamps, where its presence is only betrayed by its often repeated note.

It feeds on insects and berries, and also, to a large extent, on crabs.

There is no appreciable difference in colouring between the sexes.

The whole of the plumage is black, each feather margined with green ; irides, brownish-red ; bill dark horn-colour ; legs and feet, purplish-black.

Habitats : North Coast of Australia and New Guinea.



1 CRACTICUS QUOYII
Quoy's Crow-Shrike

2 GYMNORHINA ORGANICA (Gill)
Tasmanian Crow-Shrike

G. I. Bennett Sc.

PLATE V.

GYMNORHINA LEUCONOTA (*Gould*).

WHITE-BACKED CROW-SHRIKE.

THE *Gymnorhina Leuconota* is found in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, principally in flat and open country, studded with trees of the *Eucalyptus* and *Angophora* tribes.

It is not particularly tame in disposition, but, like both the other members of the genus, will live in captivity, and displays a great aptitude for learning to whistle and talk.

It lives on grasshoppers, locusts, and other such insects, and also will not reject berries and fruits.

In September and October it builds, in the upright fork of a large tree, a nest of small twigs, lined with various grasses. Three eggs are laid, in length one inch and two-thirds, and in breadth one inch and one line. The colour is bluish-grey, with streaks of reddish-brown.

Dissection is necessary to distinguish the sexes, so much do they resemble each other in plumage.

The back of the neck, back, rump, wing-coverts, tail-coverts, and base of the tail-feathers are white; the rest of the plumage, black; irides, hazel; bill, bluish-grey at the base, black at the tip; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

GYMNORHINA TIBICEN (*G. R. Gray*).

PIPING CROW-SHRIKE.

THE home of the species under notice is New South Wales and parts of Victoria, the same description of country being inhabited by it which is frequented by its congeners.

It is much less timid in disposition than *Gymnorhina Leuconota*, and exceeds that bird in colloquial talents when in captivity.

Its food consists of the larger kinds of insects.

The season of incubation lasts from August to January, two broods being reared each year. Three or four eggs are laid in a nest constructed of small dried sticks and grasses, and lined with soft bark and wool.

The crown of the head, cheeks, throat, back, under surface, scapularies, primaries and tips of the tail are black; back of the neck, wing-coverts, rump, tail-coverts, and base of the tail-feathers, white; bill, bluish-grey at the base, passing into black at the tip; irides, light brown; legs and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.



1 GYMNORHINA LEUCONOTA (Gould)
White-backed Crow-Shrike

2 GYMNORHINA TIBICEN (G.R. Gray)
Piping Crow-Shrike

PLATE VI.

GENUS STREPERA (*Lesson*).

ALTHOUGH bearing a certain resemblance to the Crows, the members of this genus are really distinct from them in all their characteristics and habits.

STREPERA FULIGINOSA (*Gould*).

BLACK MAGPIE.

THE Black Magpie inhabits New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, frequenting principally swampy situations and thickly wooded places in the vicinity of water.

It principally remains on the trees, but is also to be seen sometimes on the ground, where it displays great activity. It is capable of long and extended flights, generally made in small companies of three or four.

The food consists both of insects and grubs, and of various berries and seeds.

The nest is constructed on one of the branches of a tree, and is built of sticks, lined with moss and various grasses. Three eggs are laid, the colour of which is pale brown, blotched and spotted with darker colour. In length they are one inch and ten lines, and in breadth one inch and three lines.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, but they do not differ in plumage.

The whole of the plumage is brownish-black, the primaries margined with light brown; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

STREPERA GRACULINA (*G. R. Gray*).

PIED CROW-SHRIKE.

NEARLY every part of New South Wales and Victoria, except the open plains, is inhabited by this species, one of the first known of the genus.

In habits it resembles greatly the *Strepera Fuliginosa*, but is more strictly arboreal, and makes its chief food of berries and fruits.

During the breeding season a large cup-shaped nest is constructed of sticks, lined with grass, and sometimes feathers. The situation chosen is one of the branches of a small tree. Either three or four eggs are laid.

While flying, a peculiar noisy note is uttered.

There is no outward difference in the appearance of the sexes.

All the plumage is bluish-black, with the exception of the base and tip of the tail, which are white; irides, yellow; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.



1 STREPERA FULIGINOSA (Gould)
Black Magpie

2 STREPERA GRACULINA (G.R.Gray)
Pied Crow-Sheik

G. J. BROWN, FORT



PLATE VII.

STREPERA ANAPHONENSIS.

GREY CROW-SHRIKE.

THE range of the present species is very great, extending from New South Wales to Western Australia, and embracing all the southern portion of the continent.

It is seen generally either singly or in pairs, the places frequented being thickly timbered forests. It is more terrestrial in habits than is usual with this genus, and, as a natural consequence, subsists more on insects than on seeds or berries.

In September and October three eggs are laid in a structure formed of sticks and grasses, and placed on one of the smaller branches of a Eucalyptus tree. The eggs are one inch and three-quarters long, by one inch and a-quarter broad, and are light reddish-brown, blotched with dark brown.

As in the case of the other members of the genus, the sexes are alike in colouring.

All the upper surface, wings, and tail, are dark leaden-grey; ear-coverts, brownish-black; under surface, bluish-grey, tinged with brown; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

STREPERA ARGUTA (*Gould*).

HILL CROW-SHRIKE.

THE home of the species under notice is Tasmania and South Australia, where it inhabits the same kind of country as its congeners.

Like the *Strepera Anaphonensis*, it is seen chiefly on the ground, very often in families from four to ten in number.

The larger kind of insects, such as locusts and grasshoppers, form its principal food, which is however, varied by different kinds of berries and fruits.

Its note is peculiar, somewhat resembling the clinking noise given out by iron when struck by a hammer.

The nest, in which three or four eggs are laid, is the same in construction as those of the other *Streperæ*.

The head and throat are deep black; wings and tail, brownish-black; the base of the primaries and secondaries, largely margined with white; back, brownish-black; under surface, brownish-grey; irides, yellow; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: South Australia and Tasmania.

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PLATE VIII.

GENUS PARDALOTUS (*Vieillot*).

IN every part of Australia at least one member of this group is found.

PARDALOTUS PUNCTATUS (*Temm.*)

SPOTTED DIAMOND-BIRD.

TASMANIA and the southern portion of Australia constitute the habitat of this bird, which frequents both the forests of the lofty Eucalypti and the dense thickets, and is not infrequently found in gardens and shrubberies in the close vicinity of houses.

It displays great activity among the foliage, flitting about in search of insects.

Its mode of nidification is very remarkable. It chooses a little bank, in which it excavates a horizontal passage for about two or three feet, and then makes a small chamber, in which the nest is constructed. The nest is spherical in form, with a hole in the side for entrance. It is made of narrow strips of bark, and lined with any soft material which can be procured. The colour of the eggs, which are four or five in number, is light buffy-white. In length they are seven and a-half lines, and in breadth, six and a-half lines.

The male has the head and back of the neck, black, each feather having a spot of white near the tip; ear-coverts and sides of neck, grey; back, light olive-brown; rump, rufous-brown; upper tail-coverts, red; throat, chest, and under tail-coverts, yellow, inclining to orange; flanks and abdomen, tawny; irides, grey; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

The female is rather duller in colouring, and is devoid of the yellow on the chest.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

PARDALOTUS RUBRICATUS (*Gould*).

RED-LORED DIAMOND-BIRD.

AMONG the avifauna of the interior of Australia, this is one of the most beautiful, but on account of the thick brushes which it inhabits, great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining authentic information of its habits. With the exception, however, that its nest is constructed in a hole in the trunk of a tree, there appears to be a very slight difference between its mode of living and that of *Pardalotus Punctatus*.

The crown of the head is black, each feather with a spot of white; forehead, greyish-white; back of the neck, back, and wing-coverts, brownish-grey; rump, olive-grey; wings, brown; the base of the primaries and the outer margins of the secondaries, reddish-orange; tail, dark brown; lores, red; chest, yellow; throat and abdomen, white; irides, light-brown; bill, legs, and feet, brownish-black.

Habitat: Interior of Australia.

PARDALOTUS UROPYGIALIS (*Gould*).

YELLOW-RUMPED DIAMOND-BIRD.

IN his works on the "Birds of Australia," Gould in many places testifies to his indebtedness to Mr. Bynoe and other officers of the surveying ship "Beagle" for their kindness in procuring him specimens of rare or unknown birds. Among others, the *Pardalotus Uropygialis* was obtained by Mr. Bynoe on the north coast of Australia.

Except that it inhabits thickets and feeds on insects, almost nothing is definitely known of its habits.

The crown of the head and a line before and behind the eye are black; a mark from above the eye to the occiput, and the centre of the abdomen are white; throat, chest, rump, and upper tail-coverts, yellow; back of the neck and back, grey, tinged with olive; wings, black, the primaries edged externally at the base with white; tail, black, the three outer feathers on each side tipped with white; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, light brown.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.



1 PARDALOTUS PUNCTATUS (Temm)
Southern Diamond-bird

2 PARDALOTUS RUBRICAPUS (Linn)
Red-tailed Diamond-bird

3 PARDALOTUS UROPYGIUS (Linn)
Yellow-rumped Diamond-bird

PLATE IX.

PARDALOTUS QUADRAGINTUS (*Gould*).

FORTY-SPOTTED DIAMOND BIRD.

THIS is an inhabitant of the forests of lofty gum trees in the interior of Tasmania, where it is found in considerable abundance.

It feeds entirely on insects and their larvæ, displaying much activity in obtaining them from among the branches.

It breeds in September and the two following months, the nest being constructed in a hole in the trunk of a high tree. Three or four eggs are laid, white in colour, and seven and a half lines long by six lines broad.

There is no difference in the outward appearance of the sexes.

The crown of the head and upper surface are olive-green, each feather with a minute spot of brown; wings and tail, blackish-brown, all the feathers of the wings having a spot of white at the tip; cheeks, greenish-yellow; throat and under surface, light grey, tinged with olive on the flanks; bill, black; irides, legs, and feet, dark brown.

Habitat: Tasmania.

PARDALOTUS STRIATUS (*Temm.*)

STRIATED DIAMOND-BIRD.

MOST parts of the Australian continent are inhabited by this species, which is, however, not found in Tasmania.

It is arboreal in habits, very seldom descending to the ground. When flying from tree to tree, which it does with great swiftness, it utters a piping note, several times repeated.

The breeding season lasts from September to December, three or four eggs being laid in a nest made of strips of bark and grass, which is placed in a hole in a dead branch of some lofty tree. The length of the eggs is nine lines, and the breadth seven lines.

The crown of the head is black; a broad line above the eye, orange; ear-coverts, grey; back, olive-grey; rump, yellowish-brown; wing-feathers, black, margined externally with rufous-brown;

tail, black; sides of neck and shoulders, buffy-grey; chin, white; chest and flanks, yellow; rest of under-surface, reddish-buff, inclining to white in the centre of abdomen; irides, legs, and feet, dark brown; bill, black.

Habitats: All parts, more or less, of Australian continent.

PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS (*Gould*).

BLACK-HEADED DIAMOND-BIRD.

QUEENSLAND, and the northern portion of New South Wales, constitute the habitat of the species under notice.

In habits it resembles greatly the *Pardalotus Striatus*, and like that bird builds its nest in a hole in the trunk of a tree.

The crown of the head, lores, and ear-coverts, are black; above the eye is a line half orange and half white; upper surface, olive-brown; wings, brownish-black; tail, black, tipped with white; throat, chest, and centre of abdomen, bright yellow; vent, and under tail-coverts, buffy-white; irides, legs, and feet, brown; bill, black.

Habitats: Queensland and New South Wales.

PARDALOTUS AFFINIS (*Gould*).

ALLIED DIAMOND-BIRD.

THIS is one of the commonest of the Tasmanian birds, and is also sometimes found in Victoria and New South Wales.

It frequents both the dense thickets and brushes, and also the more open forests. It obtains its food, which consists of seeds, insects, and small berries, among the foliage of trees of all kinds.

The breeding season lasts from September to the beginning of January, two, and sometimes three, broods being reared. The nest, in which four or five eggs are laid, is placed in a hole in a tree, and is constructed, in the form of a dome, of various grasses, lined with feathers. The eggs, which are pure white in colour, are nine lines long by seven lines broad.

Dissection is the only means of distinguishing the sexes, so much are they alike in outward appearance.

The crown of the head is black; a line over the eye, and the throat, chest, and centre of abdomen, yellow; ear-coverts, light grey; upper surface, olive-brown; wings, black, the secondaries margined with rufous; lower part of abdomen, buffy-white; tail, blackish-brown, tipped with white; irides, bill, legs, and feet, dark brown.

Habitats: Tasmania, Victoria, and New South Wales.

PARDALOTUS XANTHOPHYGIUS (*McCoy*).

YELLOW-RUMPED PARDALOTE.

THE present species is found in Victoria and South Australia.

It resembles, both in habits and appearance, the *Pardalotus Punctatus*, from which, however, the yellow colouring of the rump at once distinguishes it.

The head and back are dark grey, spotted with white; throat, chest, and rump, orange-yellow; sides of the face and neck, and the centre of abdomen, light grey; wings, black, each feather with a small spot of white at the tip; tail, black, tipped with white; lower part of abdomen delicate fawn-colour; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

Habitats: Victoria and South Australia.



C. J. Boynowski. Febr.

- 1 PARDALOTUS QUADRAGINTUS (Gould)
Forty-spotted Diamond-bird
3 PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS (Gould)
Black-headed Diamond bird

- 2 PARDALOTUS STRIATUS (Temm)
Striated Diamond-bird
4 PARDALOTUS AFFINIS (Gould)
Allied Diamond-bird

5 PARDALOTUS XANTHOPHAEUS (McCoy)

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BOSTON, MASS.

PLATE X.

GENUS ARTAMUS.

NO less than eight members of this genus inhabit Australia, and others are found in the Indian Islands and India.

ARTAMUS MINOR (*Vicill.*)

LITTLE WOOD-SWALLOW.

THE Little Wood Swallow is found in the interior of New South Wales and Queensland, and specimens have also been procured on the north coast and in some of the adjacent islands.

It feeds solely on insects, procured for the most part among the foliage of low shrub-like trees.

Its beauty is best seen when flying about, which it does in the graceful manner peculiar to swallows, the wings being extended, but scarcely moving.

It builds a nest of twigs and fine fibres, in which four eggs are laid. The situation chosen is generally a branch of a dead tree, very often in the close vicinity of human dwellings.

The head, and upper and under surfaces are dark brown; wings, rump, and tail, deep bluish-black, all except the two outer and two middle tail-feathers tipped with white; bill, blue; legs and feet, bluish-black.

Habitats: Interiors of New South Wales and Queensland, and the north coast.

ARTAMUS SORDIDUS.

WOOD SWALLOW.

THE range of this species is very extensive, including the whole of the southern portion of the Australian continent, as well as Tasmania. Like all the Swallow tribe it is migratory, arriving in the above localities in the spring and departing again at the latter end of summer.

It is exceedingly tame in disposition, flying without the least fear about the verandahs of houses, and even into the rooms. During its swift and graceful flight it extends the wings and tail, thus showing to advantage its contrasted hues of white and dark grey.

It has a most peculiar habit of hanging in clusters from the branch of a tree, reminding an observer of a swarm of bees.

During September and the three following months a nest of twigs, lined with fine roots or grasses, is constructed on a branch, or in a hole of a tree. Four eggs, in colour greyish-white, spotted with dark brown, are laid. They are eleven lines long and eight lines broad. Two broods are reared in the season.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, but the plumage of the sexes is similar.

The head, and the whole of the body are brownish-grey; wings, bluish-black; the primaries margined externally with white; tail-feathers, deep bluish-black, all except the two centre ones, and the outer one on each side tipped with white; irides, light red; bill, legs, and feet, bluish lead-colour.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

ARTAMUS ALBIVENTRIS (*Gould*).

WHITE-VENTED WOOD-SWALLOW.

THIS bird is found in the interior of Queensland, but is not by any means plentiful.

It bears a strong resemblance to the Western Australian variety, *Artamus Cinereus*, but can be readily distinguished by its smaller size and the white colouring of the under tail-coverts.

Lores, space beneath the eye and chin, are black; head, upper surface, and wings, light olive-brown; chest and under surface, grey, passing into white on the lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts; tail, bluish-black, tipped with white, except the two central feathers; line round the eye, white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, horn-colour; legs and feet, bluish-grey.

Habitat: Interior of Queensland.

ARTAMUS CINEREUS (*Vieill.*)

GREY-BREASTED WOOD SWALLOW.

THIS, the largest of all the Wood Swallows, inhabits Western Australia, where it is fairly common in the summer months.

It feeds principally on insects, but also to a considerable extent on seeds, particularly those of the *Xanthorrhæa*, or grass-tree.

During the spring, four eggs are laid in a nest placed in a small bush, and constructed of fine twigs and various grasses. The ground colour of the eggs is greyish-white, with marks of reddish brown distributed irregularly over the surface. Their medium length is eleven lines, and their breadth eight lines.

The lores and throat are dark brownish-grey; chest and abdomen, buffy-grey; upper surface and wings, olive-grey; tail, black, all except the two middle feathers tipped with white; irides, brown; bill, legs, and feet, bluish-grey.

Habitat: Western Australia.



1. *ARTAMUS MINOR* (Vieill.)
Little Wood Swallow.
2. *ARTAMUS ALBIVENTRIS* Vieill.

3. *ARTAMUS SORDIDUS*
Wood Swallow.
4. *ARTAMUS CINEREUS* Vieill.

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PLATE XI.

ARTAMUS SUPERCILIOSUS (*Gould*).

WHITE-EYEBROWED WOOD SWALLOW.

THE *Artamus Superciliosus* frequents the interior of New South Wales and the southern part of Queensland. It is much more timid and shy in disposition than *Artamus Sordidus*, and shows a preference for the topmost branches of lofty trees, which it scarcely ever leaves, except to capture insects.

The nest, which is composed of small sticks, roots, and bark, is placed in the fork of a tree, at a considerable height from the ground. Either two or three eggs are laid, eleven lines in length and eight and a-half lines in breadth. In colour they are dull-white, spotted, particularly at the larger end, with dark brown.

The male has the lores, ear-coverts, and chin, black; throat, chest, and upper surface, blackish-grey, tinged with blue; line above the eye, white; wings and tail, dark bluish-grey, the tail tipped with white; under surface, dark chestnut; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, bluish-grey. The female has the throat grey; the under surface, light chestnut; and has only a trace of the white above the eye.

Habitats: Interior of New South Wales and Queensland.

ARTAMUS PERSONATUS (*Gould*).

MASKED WOOD SWALLOW.

THE distinctive feature of this species is the black face, surrounded by white, which at once attracts the attention of an observer. It is found in South Australia and Western Australia.

In habits it is very much the same as *Artamus Superciliosus*, but in some places constructs a nest on the ground, instead of on a branch of a tree.

In the number and colour of the eggs it does not differ from *Artamus Superciliosus*.

The male has the throat, ear-coverts, head and face, black, bounded by a line of pure white; the upper surface, wings and tail, dark grey, the tail tipped with white; under surface, light grey; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, bluish-grey.

The female differs in having the face grey instead of black.

Habitats: South Australia and Western Australia.

ARTAMUS LEUCOPYGIALIS (Gould).

WHITE-RUMPED WOOD SWALLOW.

IN almost every part of Australia, except the west, this member of the genus *Artamus*, is found in considerable abundance, gum forests and thickets being alike frequented, though it evinces a preference for the larger trees.

In the pursuit of insects it is extremely active, capturing them both among the foliage of the trees and on the ground.

It associates in small flocks of four or five, generally the progeny of one pair.

During September and the four following months, which constitute the period of incubation, a nest is constructed of twigs, lined with grass, leaves, and feathers. Sometimes, however, it takes possession of a deserted nest of some other bird. Two broods are reared, three eggs being laid each time. The colour of the eggs is white, slightly tinged with pink, and speckled with rufous brown and grey. In length they are ten lines, and in breadth seven and a-half lines.

The head, throat, and chest, are dark grey; back, brown; wings and tail, bluish-black; abdomen and rump, white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, bluish-grey.

Habitats: North Coast, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

ARTAMUS MELANOPS (Gould).

BLACK-FACED WOOD SWALLOW.

BOTH in habits and appearance this species resembles *Artamus Sordidus*, but has a distinguishing mark in the black colouring of the face.

It inhabits the interior of South Australia, but is not found in the vicinity of the coast.

The plumage of the sexes is precisely similar, but the female is very slightly smaller than the male.

The lores, face, rump, and under tail-coverts, are black; head and back, brown; upper surface of wings, deep blue, under surface, white; chest and abdomen, light buffy-grey; tail-feathers black, all except the two middle ones tipped with white; bill, leaden grey; irides, reddish-brown; feet, black.

Total length, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, 3 inches; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: South Australia.



1. ARTAMUS SCLEROPOLIOSUS (Linn.)
Black-crowned Wood Swallow

2. ARTAMUS PERSONATUS (Linn.)
Masked Wood Swallow

3. ARTAMUS LEUCOPYGIALIS (Linn.)

4. ARTAMUS ARCANOTIS (Linn.)

PLATE XII.

GENUS *ALCYONE* (*Swainson*).

TWO species of the genus *Alcyone* inhabit Australia.

ALCYONE AZUREA (*G. R. Gray*).

AZURE KINGFISHER.

THE Azure Kingfisher, a worthy representative of the Old World species, inhabits the whole of Australia except the western portion. It is also found in Tasmania.

It frequents trees on the borders of rivers and streams, from which it procures the small fish and insects on which it subsists.

It associates in pairs, and during the breeding season evinces great anger if approached, fighting most savagely with birds considerably larger than itself. During the season of incubation, which lasts from August to January, the eggs are laid in a hole in the bank of a stream, no nest being constructed. Two broods are reared every year, from five to seven eggs being laid on each occasion. They are ten and a half lines long, and nine lines broad, and in colour are fleshy-white.

The head, upper surface, and two middle tail-feathers are bright blue, with an irregular patch of brown on the shoulder; outer tail-feathers, blackish-brown; wings, blackish-brown, the tertiaries margined with blue; throat, buffy-white; under surface, brown; line in front of the eye, yellowish-buff; irides, yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, yellow.

Habitat: All parts of Australia, except Western Australia.

ALCYONE PUSILLA.

LITTLE KINGFISHER.

THE north coast of Australia, and some of the adjacent islands, constitute the habitat of this beautiful bird.

It is exceedingly shy, and remains almost altogether among the dense mangroves which border the streams.

In general characteristics and habits it does not differ materially from its congener.

The lores, a tuft behind the ear-coverts, and the under surface are white; head, back, wings, and tail, blue; the secondaries margined with green; irides, brown; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitats: North coast of Australia and adjacent islands.

GENUS TODIRHAMPHUS (*Lesson*).

MEMBERS of this genus are found in Asia and Australia, and in most of the islands between these continents.

TODIRHAMPHUS SANCTUS (*Bonap.*)

SACRED KINGFISHER.

IT seems somewhat of a misnomer to call this bird a kingfisher, since it not only does not plunge into the water to capture fish, but is even found in dry and arid places where it cannot obtain water, from which it would appear that it can exist without drinking.

It inhabits most parts of Australia, but is not seen in Tasmania. In the southern portion of the continent it is merely a summer visitant.

The food consists of almost every kind of insect, as well as of small snakes and crustaceous fish. While perched on a bough of a tree it utters frequently a loud and dolorous cry.

During the months of October, November, and December, four or five eggs are laid in the hollow in the bole of a tree, the *Angophora* (apple-tree), being most often chosen. The eggs are fleshy white in colour, and are one inch and one line long by ten lines broad.

The crown of the head, back and scapularies, are dark green; wings and tail, bluish-green; ear-coverts and a line round the head, black; forehead, line over the eye, collar round the neck, and under surface, light buff; irides, dark brown; bill, black, the basal portion of the lower mandible, flesh-colour; legs and feet, brown.

Habitat: The whole of Australia.

TODIRHAMPHUS PYRRHOPYGIUS (*Gould*).

RED-BACKED KINGFISHER.

THE present species inhabits most parts of the interior of Australia, brushes in the vicinity of water being most frequented.

In habits and mode of nidification it does not differ from the Sacred Kingfisher, but the eggs are smaller and rounder, being one inch long, by ten and a-half lines broad.

The crown of the head is dull green, striated with white, a broad black stripe passes from the base of the bill round the head; the throat, a broad collar encircling the neck, and the under surface, greyish-white; upper part of the back, and scapularies, green; remainder of wings, bluish-green, tipped with brown; rump, and stripe up part of the back, red; tail, green; irides, legs, and feet, yellow; bill, olive-brown.

Habitat: Interior of Australia.



G. B. S. F.

1. *ALCYON AZUREA* (G. R. Gray)
Azure Kingfisher.
3. *TODIRHAMPHUS PYRRHOPYGIUS* (Gould)
Red-backed Kingfisher.

2. *TODIRHAMPHUS SANCTUS* (Bonap)
Sacred Kingfisher.
4. *ALCYON PUSILLA*
Little Kingfisher.

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PLATE XIII.

TODIRHAMPHUS SORDIDUS (*Gould*).

SORDID KINGFISHER.

THIS, the largest member of the genus *Todirhamphus*, is found in Queensland and the north coast, where it was first discovered by Mr. Bynoe.

In habits it resembles the other species of the same genus.

The head, back, scapularies and wing-coverts are brownish-green; wings, dark green; collar round the neck, forehead, and under surface, greyish-white; tail, greenish-blue; irides and bill, grey; legs and feet, dark brown.

Habitats: Queensland and North Coast.

GENUS CYANALCYON (*Verreaux*).

ONE species of this form, which is closely allied to the *Todirhamphi*, inhabits Australia. Others are found in the islands to the northward of the continent.

CYANALCYON MACLEAYI.

MACLEAY'S KINGFISHER.

THE northern portion of Australia contains many beautiful birds, but few, if any, with finer plumage than the species under notice. Like the *Todirhamphi*, it is rarely seen in the immediate vicinity of water, and can subsist for a long time without that element.

It feeds on insects and small snakes and lizards, while searching for which it utters a loud double note.

During November and December three or four eggs are laid in a hollow in a tree, no actual nest being constructed. The eggs are greyish-white in colour, and are eleven lines in length, and ten lines in breadth.

A line under the eye, and the ear-coverts, are black; head, back, scapularies, rump, and base of tail, greenish-blue; wings, brownish-black, the primaries having the base white; tail, brownish-black; cheeks and under surface, white; irides, light brown; bill, grey. The female is duller in colouring, but otherwise does not differ.

Habitat: Northern part of Australia.

GENUS SYMA (*Lesson*).

TWO species of this genus have been discovered, one in Australia, and one in New Guinea.

SYMA FLAVIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

YELLOW-BILLED KINGFISHER.

THE Yellow-Billed Kingfisher is yet another of those beautifully-coloured and rare birds which inhabit the north coast of Australia.

It frequents only the densest brushes, and on account of its timidity is very difficult to procure.

It feeds on insects and small reptiles.

During the season of incubation it excavates a hole in one of the immense ant-hills of red clay, which are to be seen in great abundance in that region, and in it lays three white eggs.

The female differs from the male, in the colour of the plumage being rather duller.

The head, neck, and ear-coverts, are cinnamon-red, with a broad line of black on the crown of the head; back, wings, and tail, green, each feather margined with black; under surface, greyish-white; irides, brown; bill, buff, part of the lower mandible, brown; legs and feet, yellowish-buff.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.



1. *TODIRHAMPHUS SORDIDUS* (Jerd.)
Sordid Kingfisher

2. *CYANALCYON MACLEAYI*
Macleays Kingfisher

3. *SYMA FLAVIROSTRIS* (Jerd.)
Yellow-bellied Kingfisher

J. B. Sowerby, F.R.S.

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PLATE XIV.

GENUS TANYSIPTERA (*Vigors*).

THE lengthened form of the tail, and the contrasted colours of the plumage, render the species of this form very attractive, and at the same time give them a distinctly characteristic appearance.

TANYSIPTERA SYLVIA (*Gould*).

WHITE-TAILED KINGFISHER.

THIS bird is an inhabitant of the dense brushes on the north coast of Australia.

It is arboreal in habits, and though sometimes darting to the ground to capture an insect, never remains there, but returns to perch on a branch. It is exceedingly shy and timid, and as it flies with considerable swiftness it is very difficult to obtain specimens.

Its manner of incubation is the same as that of *Syma Flavirostris*, namely to excavate a hole in one of the gigantic ant-hills, three white eggs being laid.

The crown of the head, wings, and five lateral tail-feathers on each side, blue; forehead, ear-coverts, and back, black, the latter with a patch of white in the centre; rump and centre tail feathers, white; under surface, irides, bill, legs, and feet, dark red.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.

GENUS DACELO (*Leach*).

THE members of this genus have some very characteristic features, which at once distinguish them from any other birds.

DACELO GIGAS (*G. R. Gray*).

LAUGHING JACKASS.

ALMOST every inhabitant of New South Wales and Victoria has seen, or at any rate heard, the Laughing Jackass, whose note sounds, to a certain extent, like a loud laugh, merry or taunting, according as the traveller is in a cheerful mood, or in distress. To the latter, indeed, it is most galling, sounding like the mocking laughter of a demon amused at his misfortune. Generally, however, the sound is welcomed by bushmen, to whom it savours of nothing but good fellowship.

Animal food of every kind forms its diet, and it often kills very large and venemous snakes. A fight of this description is very interesting. The bird darts down continuously, pecking the snake and beating him with his wings until the reptile is thoroughly exhausted. He then takes him up in his beak, and flying to a considerable distance from the ground, lets him drop. This is repeated till the victim is dead, when he is borne off in triumph.

The breeding season lasts during August and November, the eggs being deposited in a hole in the trunk of a gum-tree. They are pearly white in colour, and are one inch and three-quarters long by an inch and five-twelfths broad.

Although rather a rare bird in aviaries, it becomes very tame in captivity and is a source of endless amusement.

Head, white, striated with dark brown ; ear-coverts and a patch behind the eye, dark brown ; back of neck, buffy white ; back and wings, dark brown, each feather tipped with light brown ; tail, light chestnut, barred with dark brown and tipped with white ; under surface, light fawn-colour, with short irregular lines of brown ; irides, dark brown ; upper mandible, dark brown ; under mandible, buff ; legs and feet, brownish-black.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.



1. Broadbill. 2. Red-billed.

1. TANYSIPTERA SYLVIA (Gould)

2. LALAGE SYLVIA (Gould)

White-tailed Kingbird

Orange-bellied

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PLATE XV.

DACELO CERVINA (*Gould*).

FAWN-BREASTED KINGFISHER.

THIS is the northern representative of the *Dacelo Gigas*, from which it differs in size and in its note, which is a modification of the other. It is also much less tame and familiar.

It associates in pairs, remaining almost entirely on the trees.

The feathers of the head are buffy-white, each having a stripe of dark brown in the centre; back of the neck, ear-coverts, and under surface, fawn-colour; the under surface barred with a few irregular lines of brown; wing-feathers, black at the tip, blue at the base; tail, deep blue, tipped with white; irides, light green; upper mandible, dark brown; lower mandible, light buff; legs and feet, green.

The female has the tail chestnut-brown, tipped with buff.

Habitat: North Coast.

DACELO LEACHII (*Vig. & Horsf.*)

LEACH'S KINGFISHER.

EXCEPT in size and plumage this species does not differ sufficiently from the *Dacelo Gigas* to call for a separate description, all the habits being the same.

It is found in the north-eastern part of Australia, where it is very common.

The male has the head striated with brown and buffy-white; sides of neck and under surface, light buff, crossed with narrow, irregular lines of brown; back, dark brown; wing coverts and rump, light blue; wings, dark brown, the basal portion of the primaries and secondaries blue; tail, deep blue, all but the two centre feathers largely tipped with white; irides, dark brown; upper mandible, dark brown; under mandible, yellowish-buff; legs and feet, yellow.

The female differs in having the tail light chestnut-brown, barred with black.

Habitat: North-eastern part of Australia.



DACELO CERVINA Gould
Fawn-breasted Kingfisher

DACELO LEACH Leach & Horsfield
Leach's Kingfisher

G. J. Brinnawski del.

PLATE XVI.

GENUS EURYSTOMUS (*Vieillot*).

THIS genus is dispersed over India, the Indian Islands, and Africa, and one species is found in Australia.

EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS (*G. R. Gray*).

AUSTRALIAN ROLLER.

NEW SOUTH WALES and Queensland constitute the habitat of the species under notice, the southern colony being chosen for performing the duty of incubation, and Queensland being the winter residence.

It lives on insects, chiefly of the coleopterous tribe.

During its flight, which is rapid and long-sustained, the white spot on the wings is very conspicuous, and has procured for it the name of Dollar-bird.

In September, and the three following months, three or four eggs are laid in a hole in a tree, no nest being built. In colour they are white, tinged with grey, and are one inch and five-twelfths long, by one inch and one-sixth broad.

The head and neck are dark brown, passing into sea-green on the upper surface; spurious wing, outer webs of the basal part of the secondaries and middle part of the primaries, and the throat, light blue; base of primaries, greenish-white; tip, dark brown; tail, green at the base, dark brown at the tip; under surface, green; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, red.

Habitats: New South Wales and Queensland.

GENUS MEROPS (*Linnæus*).

ONLY one bird of this form inhabits Australia.

MEROPS ORNATUS (*Loth.*)

AUSTRALIAN BEE-EATER.

THE *Merops Ornatus* is a summer visitant to the southern portion of Australia, returning, on the approach of winter to the northern part.

It is found chiefly in the interior, among the open forests, perching on the higher branches, whence it sallies forth to capture bees and other insects.

The eggs, four or five in number, are deposited in a small chamber excavated at the end of a passage about a yard in length, which is made in the bank of a river or stream. They are fleshy-white in colour, and are five-sixths of an inch long by two-thirds of an inch broad.

There is no difference in the colouring of the sexes.

The forehead, a line over the eye, back, wing-coverts, and abdomen, are brownish-green; a line through the eye, and the ear-coverts, black, beneath that a stripe of light blue; crown of the head, orange-brown; wing-feathers, brown, margined with light green; throat, orange, beneath it a patch of black; tail feathers, black, margined with light blue; irides, light brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: All parts of Australia.

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PLATE XVII.

GENUS HIRUNDO (*Linnaeus*).

MEMBERS of this genus are found in Europe Asia, Africa, North America, and Australia.

HIRUNDO FRONTALIS (*Quoy et Gaim.*)

WELCOME SWALLOW.

EVERY part of Australia is inhabited by this species, the southern parts in the summer, and the northern portion all the year round. It arrives in New South Wales about the end of July, and departs again in the middle or latter part of May. In the more southern colonies, however, it arrives later and departs earlier, in fact it remains about three months less in Tasmania than in New South Wales.

It is remarkably tame in disposition, flying about the verandahs of houses, and even into rooms.

It breeds in August and the two following months, four eggs being laid. The nest, which is constructed of mud mixed with straw and hair, is built either in a rocky cave or in some other sheltered place, a verandah or outhouse being very often chosen. The eggs are pinky-white in colour, spotted with brown. Two broods are usually reared in the season.

The forehead, throat, and chest, are rust-red; head, back, scapularies, wing-coverts, and all but the three centre tail-feathers, dark steel-blue; wings and centre tail-feathers, brown; under surface, pale brown; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: Australia and Tasmania.

GENUS HYLOCHELIDON (*Gould*).

THERE are two species of this genus, one being found in Australia and the other in Timor.

HYLOCHELIDON NIGRICANS (*Gould*).

TREE SWALLOW.

THE present species is an inhabitant, during the summer months, of the southern part of Australia, and Tasmania, but on the approach of winter it retires to the northern part of the continent.

Like the swallow, with which it often associates, it is very familiar and tame.

The period of incubation is in October, when from three to five eggs are laid in a hole in the trunk of a tree, no nest being constructed. The length of the eggs is eight lines and the breadth six lines. In colour they are white, faintly tinged with pink, and speckled with light reddish-brown.

Specimens obtained in Tasmania are larger than those from New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, which in their turn exceed the Western Australian variety.

The forehead is rust-red; head and wing-coverts, beautiful blue; wings and centre tail-feathers, brown; outer tail-feathers, blue; under surface, light, delicate fawn-colour; irides, bill, and feet, brown.

Habitats: Australia and Tasmania.

GENUS LAGENOPLASTES (*Gould*).

TWO species are known of the genus *Lagenoplastes*.

LAGENOPLASTES ARIEL (*Gould*).

FAIRY MARTIN.

THE *Lagenoplastes Ariel* is a summer visitant to the southern part of Australia, arriving in August and departing again in March. It is never found in the immediate vicinity of the coast.

The nest, which is constructed either in a hollow of a tree or on the side of a rock, is bottle-shaped, and is built of mud and straw, and lined with feathers and fine grass. Thirty or forty of these nests are sometimes placed together in all positions, some with the spouts downwards, others at right angles, and some upright. Six or seven birds generally combine to build a nest, one remaining inside and the others bringing up mud and other materials.

Four or five eggs are laid, the average length of which is eleven-sixteenths of an inch, and the breadth half an inch. In colour they are white. Two, and sometimes three broods, are reared.

There is no difference in the outward appearance of the sexes.

The crown of the head is rust-red; back, scapularies, and wing-coverts, deep blue; wings and tail, dark brown; rump and under surface, buffy-white, each feather of the throat with a fine line down the centre; irides, bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitat : Interior of Australia.

GENUS CHERAMŒCA (*Cabanis*).

THE type bird of this genus is one which Gould placed among the *Atticoræ*, although acknowledging that he was doubtful as to the propriety of doing so.

CHERAMŒCA LEUCOSTERNA (*Gould*).

WHITE-BREASTED SWALLOW.

THE whole of the Australian continent is inhabited, at any rate in the summer, by this species, which associates in small flocks of from ten to twenty.

During the months of October and November a nest is constructed either in a hollow in the bole of a tree, or more often in a hole excavated in the side of a bank. In the latter case a passage is made about three feet in length, and then widens out into a small chamber, which is lined with grass and leaves. The eggs are white in colour.

The crown of the head is light brown, surrounded by a ring of greyish-white; a broad band commencing at the eye and passing round the back of the neck, brown; centre of the back, throat, chest, and under surface of the shoulder, white; wings and tail, brownish-black; rump, upper and under tail-coverts, lower part of abdomen, and flanks, black; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey,

Habitat : All parts of Australia.



G. J. Broinowski fecit

1 HIRUNDO FRONTALIS (Quoy et Gaim.)
Welcome Swallow

3 LAGENOPLASTES ARIEL (Gould)
Fairy Martin

2 HYLOCHELIDON NIGRICANS (Gould)
Tree Swallow

4 CHERAMOECA LEUCOSTERNA (Gould)
White-breasted Swallow

PLATE XVIII.

GENUS CYPSELUS (*Illiger*).

ONLY one species of this extensive genus is found in Australia.

CYPSELUS PACIFICUS (*Steph.*)

AUSTRALIAN SWIFT.

THE southern portion of Australia is visited during the months from August to March by this bird, the only true Swift which is found in this country.

It flies very high, and very seldom comes near the ground.

Of its mode of nidification nothing is definitely known.

The throat and rump are white; upper and under surface of the body, brown, tinged with green, each feather of the under surface margined with greyish-white; wings and tail, dark brownish-green; bill, black; irides and feet, brown.

Habitat; Southern portion of Australia.

GENUS CHÆTURA (*Stephens*).

SPECIES of this form are found in Europe and America, and one in Australia.

CHÆTURA CAUDACUTA.

SPINE-TAILED SWIFT.

IT is quite impossible to give the definite range of the present species, as its powers of flight are so immense that it might come from almost any region. It, however, visits the eastern portion of Australia and Tasmania, and is also found in India and other parts of Asia, from which continent, in fact, the visitors to Australia most probably come.

It obtains its food, of insects, in the air, and very seldom comes to the ground. Its favourite resting places are the inaccessible crags on the side of a precipice, where it generally builds its nest.

The sexes do not differ in the colouring of their plumage.

The head, back of the neck, and ear-coverts, are deep brown; forehead, throat, and under tail-coverts, white; wings and tail, dull green; back, greyish-brown; abdomen, light brown; irides and bill, brown; legs and feet, brownish-green.

Habitats : Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.



Gu Bronowski fecit

1 CYPSELUS PACIFICUS (Steph)
Australian Swift

2 CHÆTURA CAUDACUTA
Sooty-tailed Swift

PLATE XIX.

GENUS EUROSTOPODUS.

TWO species are all that are known of this genus, both of them inhabiting Australia.

EUROSTOPODUS GUTTATUS.

SPOTTED NIGHTJAR.

THE Spotted Nightjar is distributed over the whole of the southern portion of Australia, though it is not very plentiful anywhere.

During the day it sleeps on the ground in a secluded part of the forest, and at night goes forth in search of food. It feeds on the larger kinds of insects and locusts, very often swallowing them whole.

It flies with great swiftness, darting up or down in order to capture any insects which it may see.

It does not construct any nest, but lays a single egg on the bare ground. The colour of the egg is greenish-olive, spotted here and there with black. In length it is one inch and three-eighths, and in breadth one inch.

The sexes do not differ either in size or colouring.

The head is brown, each feather spotted with brownish-black; sides of head and neck, grey, spotted with brown; back, grey, freckled with brown; scapularies, light grey, freckled with brown, and with a patch of black on each feather; wing-coverts, grey, freckled and spotted with brown; primaries and secondaries, brownish-black, having spots of buff on both webs, the primaries also having a spot of white on the inner web; middle tail-feather, light grey, outer feathers, brownish-grey, the whole barred with dark brown; on each side of the throat a patch of white; under surface, buffy-white, irregularly marked with dark brown; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, reddish-brown.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

EUROSTOPODUS ALBOGULARIS.

WHITE-THROATED NIGHTJAR.

THE present species is found in the eastern portion of Australia, from about Brisbane southwards.

It altogether resembles its congener in habits, and like it has great powers of vision and flight, which enable it to see and capture insects in the dim twilight, which is its time for sallying forth.

During the breeding season a single egg is laid on the ground.

Unlike most birds, the female is slightly larger than the male, and is rather brighter in the colouring of the plumage.

All the upper surface is brownish-grey; sides of neck and the shoulders, brown, margined with buff; scapularies, dark brown, margined with grey; wings, brown, margined with grey and spotted with dark brown; tail-feathers, grey, spotted with brown and white; throat and chest, blackish-brown, margined with lighter brown; on each side of the throat is a patch of white; abdomen, light buff, barred with dark brown; irides, dark brown; bill, black; feet, reddish-brown.

Habitats : Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.



EUROSTOPODUS OUTTATUS
Spotted Nightjar

EUROSTOPODUS ALBOCULARIS
White-throated Nightjar

G. C. FROTHINGHAM DEL.

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PLATE XX.

GENUS PODARGUS (*Cuvier*).

THIS is a form of night-bird which is confined to Australia and a few of the adjacent islands.

PODARGUS STRIGOIDES.

TAWNY-SHOULDERED PODARGUS.

NEW SOUTH WALES is the home of this species of *Podargus*, first described by Latham.

It is a strictly nocturnal bird, spending the day in slumber, on a bough or in a hollow trunk of a tree, generally in pairs. Its sleep is so sound that it may be killed with a stick, and Gould even mentions that he has shot one without disturbing the mate sitting close by. If it is by any means wakened, it merely flies off to another tree close by and continues its lethargy.

Immediately after sunset it begins to look for the insects on which it feeds. It does not capture them on the wing, but creeps along a branch, in which it is greatly assisted by a curious power which it has of changing the position of the outer toe, to point backward instead of forward.

Its cry consists of a loud double note.

During the breeding season two beautiful white eggs are laid in a flat nest, constructed of sticks, and placed on a horizontal bough of some tree, generally one of the eucalyptus tribe. The male and female take it in turns to sit on the eggs.

The upper surface is grey, spotted with dark brown; wing-coverts, light chestnut-brown, margined and tipped with white; other wing-feathers, dark brown, margined with spots of rufous and white; tail, brown, spotted with brownish-black and greyish-white; under surface, greyish-white, crossed by irregular lines of rufous, and having a line of brown down each feather; on each side of the neck there is a series of dark brown spots; irides, yellow; bill, legs, and feet, brown.

Habitat: New South Wales.

PODARGUS PLUMIFERUS (*Gould*).

PLUMED PODARGUS.

THIS is an inhabitant of the brushes bordering the rivers in the northern part of New South Wales and the southern part of Queensland.

The lengthened form of the tail, and the two tufts of feathers which are near the nostrils, are characteristic features which at once distinguish it from the other members of the genus.

A tuft of feathers springing from above the nostril, is brown, spotted with black; upper surface, mottled brown, black, and brownish-white, the latter predominating above each eye, on the tips of the wing-coverts, and the middle part of the primaries; tail, the same colours, only in the form of bars; throat and chest, brownish-buff, speckled with dark brown; under surface, brownish-buff, with a large spot of brown in the centre of each feather, and a spot of white at the tip; irides, yellowish-white; bill and feet, horn-colour.

Habitats: Northern part of New South Wales and southern part of Queensland.



1. PODARGUS STRIGOIDES
Tawny-shouldered Podargus

2. PODARGUS PLUMBEUS
Plumbeous Podargus

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PLATE XXI.

PODARGUS CUVIERI (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

CUVIER'S PODARGUS.

CUVIER'S PODARGUS, more generally known by the name of "More-pork," inhabits Tasmania, Victoria, and New South Wales.

It does not differ from the *Podargus Strigoides* in general habits, but has a most peculiar and altogether characteristic cry, which resembles the words "more pork," and is uttered in a most mournful and persistent manner, one bird sometimes keeping it up almost without intermission for an hour or more.

When in captivity it lives—but that is about all; as it never exhibits the least liveliness or sign of intelligence.

In the season of incubation it builds a flat nest, placed on a horizontal branch, and constructed of sticks, lined with vegetable fibres. Two eggs are laid, white in colour, and an inch and three-quarters long by an inch and one-quarter broad.

The feathers of the head and back are ashy grey, each with a line of blackish-brown down the centre, and with small spots of greyish-white and dark brown distributed over the surface; wing-coverts, brown, tipped with white; other wing-feathers brown margined with white; tail, grey, barred with black, and each feather tipped with white; under surface, reddish-grey, the webs of the feathers, blackish-brown; irides, yellow; bill, legs, and feet, olive-brown.

Habitats: Tasmania principally, and also Victoria and New South Wales.

PODARGUS MARMORATUS (*Gould*).

MARBLED PODARGUS.

THIS is in many respects merely a smaller form of the *Podargus Papuensis*, and, like that bird, is rather more graceful in contour than most of the *Podargi*.

It is found on the North Coast, being most abundant about Cape York Peninsula.

No essential differences in habits exist between it and other species of the genus.

The male has the upper surface and wings mottled with dark brown, grey and buff, the latter tint prevailing above the eye, on the scapularies, and on the tips of the wing-coverts; on the primaries the colours are in form of bars; tail, light brownish-grey, crossed with bands of dark grey; under surface, greyish-white, with a line of dark brown down each feather; a series of brown lines is on each side of the neck; irides, yellow; bill and feet, olive-brown.

The female is darker, and of a more rufous hue; but in size and in character of the markings is the same.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.



G.J. Broinowski, Fe.

1. *PODARGUS CUVIERI* (Vig & Horsf)
Cuvier's Podargus.

2. *PODARGUS MARMORATUS* (Gould)
Marbled Podargus.

PLATE XXII.

PODARGUS PHALÆNOIDES (*Gould*).

MOTH-PLUMAGED PODARGUS.

ALTHOUGH differing in size and colouring from the *Podargus Strigoides*, this species resembles it very closely in habits.

It is found in the north-western part of Australia, especially about Port Essington.

The sides of the face, shoulders and under surface, are brownish-grey, freckled with rufous, each feather with a broad stripe of black down the centre; upper surface, brown, becoming more greyish towards the sides, and each feather having a broad stripe of black; wing-feathers, brown, margined with white; tail, brown, crossed by narrow bars of black; irides, yellow; bill, horn-colour; legs and feet, grey.

Habitat: North-western part of Australia.

PODARGUS PAPUENSIS (*Quoy et Gaim.*)

PAPUAN PODARGUS.

WHEN Mr. Macgillivray first discovered this bird on the north coast of Australia, he believed it to be a new species, but on comparison it was found to be identical with the New Guinea species described by Quoy and Gaimard, and the name given by them was accordingly retained.

It is the largest member of the genus *Podargus*, and is also one of the most beautiful.

In general characteristics and habits it is the same as *Podargus Strigoides*.

The male has the upper surface and wings mottled with buffy-white, black, and brown, on the primaries the marks are in the form of bars; the tail is barred alternately with dark brown and greyish-white, with a reddish tint on the edge of the feathers; under surface, greyish-white, the feathers tipped with rufous, and the whole having irregular marks of brownish-black; flanks and tail-coverts tinged with olive; bill, legs, and feet, olive-grey.

The female is of a much redder hue than the male, and has the marks on the under surface much smaller.

Habitats: New Guinea, and the north coast of Australia.



1. *PODARGUS PHALÆNOÏDES* (Gould)
Moth-plumaged Podargus.

2. *PODARGUS PAPUENSIS* (Quoy & Gaim)
Papuan Podargus.

G. J. Broinowski Feilt

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PLATE XXIII.

GENUS ÆGOTHELES (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

TWO members of this genus inhabit Australia.

ÆGOTHELES LEUCOGASTER (*Gould*).

WHITE-BELLIED OWLET-NIGHTJAR.

THIS bird is found on the north coast of Australia, particularly in the neighbourhood of Port Essington.

It is nocturnal in habits, remaining during the day in a hole in the limb of a tree. When disturbed it merely flies off to another tree, and resumes its interrupted slumbers.

Its food consists of various kinds of insects, obtained at night.

The sexes are alike in plumage.

The head is brown, two crescentic marks, and a collar at the back of the head, freckled with grey; back, freckled with black and white; wings, brown, the margins light brown, with spots of darker colour; ear coverts, white; tail, dark brown, crossed by broad bands of reddish-buff; breast, grey, crossed by numerous bars of black; rest of under surface, greyish-white; irides, legs, and feet, yellowish-buff; bill, black.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.

ÆGOTHELES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

OWLET NIGHTJAR.

THE Owlet Nightjar is found in Tasmania, and all the southern part of Australia, to about the latitude of Brisbane, every kind of forest country being equally frequented.

During the day it resorts to the hollow branches of trees, but on the approach of night sallies forth in quest of its never-failing prey, the various insects, which also are most lively at that time.

It has several points of resemblance with the owls, particularly the stooping position, and the power of turning the head in any direction, even over the back.

It breeds at various times from September to January, no nest being built, but four or five white eggs being laid in the hollow branch of a tree. In length the eggs are one inch and one line, and in breadth eleven lines.

The head is brown, with three crescentic marks of greyish-white on the side; upper surface and wings, brownish-grey, each feather with a spot of black near the tip; under surface, light buff, barred with short, narrow lines of brown; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish-yellow.

Habitats: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia.

GENUS CAPRIMULGUS (*Linnæus*).

ONLY one member of this genus inhabits Australia. Others are found in the different parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS (*Horsfield*).

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR.

THIS, the only species of true Nightjar obtained in Australia, inhabits the north coast, and is also found in Southern India and Java.

During the day it sleeps under the shade of a large tree in an open forest, but at night displays great activity.

Insects of various kinds constitute its sole food.

During the breeding season a single egg is laid on the bare ground, no nest of any kind being constructed.

The head is brownish-grey, the feathers down the centre, brown, with a spot of black on each; ear-coverts, brown; a narrow line below the angle of the mouth, and a line across the chest, white; back, brown, freckled with black and buff; wing-coverts, freckled grey, brown, and black; primaries and secondaries, blackish-brown, crossed near the base by buff, the second and third primaries crossed near the base by a broad band of white; scapularies, greyish-white, freckled with brown; tail-feathers, reddish-brown, freckled with dark brown, the two outer feathers on each side, largely tipped with white; under surface, buffy-brown, barred with narrow lines of dark brown; irides, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, light brown.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.



G.J. Broinowski, Fecit.

1. *ÆGOTHELES LEUCOGASTER* (Gould)
White-Bellied Owllet Nightjar.

2. *ÆGOTHELES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ* (Vig & Horsf)
Owllet Nightjar.

3. *CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS* (Horsf)
Large-tailed Nightjar.

PLATE XXIV.

ORDER RAPTORES.

THE number of birds of this order is very small in Australia, compared with other portions of the globe. There are none of the immense vultures which are found in other parts, and in fact very few of the larger species. The principal reason of this is, perhaps, that the greater part of animal food to be obtained consists of reptiles, which are only fitted for the smaller kinds of Rapaces.

GENUS HIERACOGLAUX (*Kaup.*)

THE members of this genus are generally looked upon as nocturnal birds, but are not strictly so, as they also fly by day.

HIERACOGLAUX STRENUUS.

GREAT OWL OF THE BRUSHES.

THIS is one of the largest and most powerful of the Raptores, in fact the *Aquila Anclax* and *Polioætus Leucogaster* are the only two which are superior to it in strength.

It is found in the brushes of Victoria, New South Wales, and the southern part of Queensland, generally near the coast.

It generally sleeps by day and flies forth at night, when its presence is betrayed by the hoarse note which it utters, and which resembles somewhat the lowing of cattle. It is sometimes also heard abroad during the daytime.

It feeds on birds and small quadrupeds, which are to be obtained in great quantities in the vicinity of its haunts.

The head, upper surface, wings, and tail are clove-brown, each feather having a mark of very dark brown; face, throat, and upper part of the chest, buff, with a mark of dark brown down the centre of each feather; rest of under surface, light grey, crossed by irregular bars of brown; irides and feet, yellow; bill, greyish horn-colour.

Total length, 24 inches; bill, 2 inches; wing, 15 inches; tail, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Habitats · Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.

HIERACOGLAUX RUFUS.

RUFIOUS OWL.

THE present species, which inhabits the northern portion of Australia, nearly equals in size and strength the *Hieracoglaux Strenuus*. It is, however, easily distinguished by the rufous tint which pervades the whole of the plumage, and by the numerous narrow bars of the chest.

There is no essential difference in the plumage of the sexes.

The head, upper surface, wings, and tail are dark brown, barred with lighter brown; under surface, light rufous brown, crossed by numerous darker bars; irides, yellow; bill, grey; feet, yellow; the claws, black.

Total length, 20 inches; bill, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Habitat: Northern part of Australia.



G. J. Bronowski. Febr.

1. HIERACOGLAUX STRENUUS
Great Owl of the Brushes.

2. HIERACOGLAUX RUFUS
Rufous Owl.

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PLATE XXV.

GENUS SPILOGLAUX (*Kaup*).

THE two species of this genus are chiefly nocturnal in habits, but also, sometimes fly about in the daytime.

SPILOGLAUX BOOBOOK.

BOOBOOK OWL.

EVERY part of Australia is inhabited by this owl, which is also found, though to a much smaller extent, in Tasmania.

It usually sleeps in the daytime, and goes forth at night to obtain its food. Sometimes, however, it is seen during the day, in pursuit of insects and small birds, which its swiftness enables it to capture easily.

The cry, which is uttered only during the night, resembles the sound of the word "Buck-buck," from which "Boobook" is evidently derived.

During the months of November and December, three pure white eggs are laid in a hole in the trunk of a gum tree. In length they are one inch and seven lines, and in breadth one inch and four lines.

The fore part of the facial disc is greyish-white; the hinder part and ear-coverts, dark brown; the head, and upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; the fore part of the head, and the margins of the scapularies and wing-feathers being reddish-brown; chest, and centre of abdomen, light rufous; lower part of abdomen, white, the whole of the under surface being marked with reddish-brown; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, black; feet, yellow.

Habitats: The whole of Australia, and parts of Tasmania.

SPILOGLAUX MACULATUS.

SPOTTED OWL.

UNLIKE the preceding species, the Spotted Owl is most abundant in Tasmania, and is but sparingly distributed over the mainland.

It is usually found in thick forests and brushes, generally spending the day in slumber, but sometimes sallying forth for food. During the night it becomes very active, and captures great numbers of small birds, locusts, and other insects.

It bears confinement very well, and is often to be seen in aviaries.

The sexes are alike in colour, but contrary to the usual rule, the female is slightly larger than the male.

The facial disc is white, with a dark grey patch round the eye; head, upper surface, wings, and tail, blackish-brown; the forehead, scapularies, and secondaries, spotted with white; under surface, light chestnut-brown, spotted with white; irides and feet, yellow; bill, black.

Habitats: Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.



1 SPILOGLAUX BOOBOOK.
Boobook Owl.

2 SPILOGLAUX MACULATUS
Spotted Owl

G.J. Broinowski, Fecit

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PLATE XXVI.

GENUS SCELOGLAUX (*Kaup.*)

THE only member of this peculiar genus inhabits New Zealand.

SCELOGLAUX ALBIFACIES (*G. R. Gray.*)

WEKAU.

ALTHOUGH an inhabitant of New Zealand, this is such a singular species, and so characteristically distinct from any other yet discovered, that it may fairly be included in a work such as this.

It is certainly an owl, but differs from all the others in several points, particularly in its small head, prominent bill, and inconsiderable powers of flight, which latter peculiarity at once shows it to be terrestrial rather than arboreal in habits.

It is not known on what it feeds, but most probably, from its structure, insects form the principal article of diet.

It is very rare, only a few specimens having been obtained.

The forehead is white, above it a band of rufous spotted with black; head and upper surface, blackish-brown; facial disc and throat, greyish-white, the latter spotted with brown; wing-coverts and wings, blackish-grey, the former spotted with white; under surface, dark rufous, each feather with a mark of brown in the centre; irides, dark brown; bill and feet, grey; tarsi, brown.

Habitat: New Zealand.

HIERACOGLAUX CONNIVENS.

WINKING OWL.

THIS species, described by Latham under the title of *Falco Connivens*, is found in all the southern colonies of Australasia, from New South Wales to Western Australia. It is found in much greater abundance than either of the other two members of the genus.

During the daytime it remains hidden in the branches of some tree, very often a *Casuarina*, and sallies forth at night after the manner of its congeners.

During the breeding season it lays a single white egg, two inches long and one and five-eighth inches in breadth.

The head, ear-coverts, back, and wings, are dark brown; the scapularies, greater wing-coverts, and secondaries, spotted with white; tail, dark brown, barred and tipped with white; under surface, mottled brown and grey; irides and feet, yellow; bill, grey.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



SCELOGLAUX ALBIFACIES, (G.R.Gray)
Wekau.

HIERACOGLAUX CONNIVENS.
Winking Owl.

G. J. Broinowski, Fecit

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PLATE XXVII.

GENUS STRIX (*Linn.*)

ALTHOUGH the *Raptores* altogether are but feebly represented in Australia, the number of members of the genus *Strix* is quite extraordinary. As a general rule a country possesses but one species, whereas Australia contains no less than five.

STRIX CASTANOPS (*Gould*).

CHESTNUT-FACED OWL.

THIS large and powerful bird inhabits Tasmania, and the southern colonies of Australia, frequenting the open forests of large trees.

It spends the day sleeping in a hollow in the trunk of a large tree, but on the approach of evening issues forth in search of food. It subsists on rats, bandicoots, and other small quadrupeds.

There is no difference in the plumage of the sexes, but the female is much larger and stronger than her mate. The facial disc is deep chestnut-brown; upper surface, wings, and tail, rufous brown, each feather irregularly marked with dark brown, and the head and shoulders having a few spots of white; under surface dark chestnut, with a few spots of black; irides, blackish-brown; space round the eye, black; bill, yellowish-buff; feet, greyish-brown; claws, black.

Habitats: Tasmania, and the southern part of Australia.

STRIX NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (*Steph.*)

MASKED OWL.

THE Masked Owl is found in every part of Australia except the north coast, but does not inhabit Tasmania. In general habits it resembles the *Strix Castanops*, like it, being strictly nocturnal in habits and feeding on small quadrupeds. It is, however, only about two-thirds the size of that bird.

There is considerable difference in the colouring of the face and under surface of different specimens, in some these parts being buff, and in others pure white. This at first caused them to be described as different species, but it has been proved that they are really the same.

As in the case of the *Strix Castanops*, the female greatly exceeds the male in size.

The facial disc is light buff tinged with purple, and bounded by a line of reddish-brown; the head, upper surface, and wings, dark brown, spotted with buff; tail, buff, with irregular bars of brown; under surface, very pale buff, spotted irregularly with dark brown; space round the eye, black; irides, dark grey; bill, pale horn-colour; feet, yellow; claws, black.

Habitat: The whole of Australia, except the northern part.



1 STRIX CASTANOPS, (Gould)
Chestnut-faced Owl.

2 STRIX NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ. (Steph)
Masked Owl.

G.J. Broinowski Fecit

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PLATE XXVIII.

STRIX CANDIDA (*Tickell*).

GRASS OWL.

THE species under notice inhabits the grassy plains of Queensland, and is also found in some parts of India, where the country is of very much the same description as portions of Australia.

It resembles greatly, both in structure and habits, the *Strix Delicatulus*.

The female does not differ much from the male, merely being rather duller in colouring.

The facial disc is greyish-white; the head and upper surface, brownish-black, spotted with white; primaries, dark brown, margined with rufous; wing-coverts, light rufous, tipped with black, and having a spot of white near the extremity; secondaries, rufous, with several black spots; under surface, greyish-white, tinged with rufous on the chest and flanks, and irregularly spotted with brown; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, light brown.

Habitats: Queensland, and parts of India.



STRIX CANDIDA (Tickell)
Grass Owl.

PLATE XXIX.

STRIX TENEBRICOSUS (*Gould*).

SOOTY OWL.

THE dark, sombre colour of this species at once distinguishes it from all the other members of the genus. It is also very much rarer. It is found in the thick brushes near the coast of New South Wales.

In all its habits and characteristics it resembles its congeners, and, as in their case, the female is larger and more powerful than the male.

The facial disc is sooty-grey, surrounded by black; the upper surface, wings, and tail, blackish-brown, spotted with white; the primaries the same colour, but without spots; under surface, brownish-grey, with very faint spots of white; irides, brown; bill, horn-colour; feet, yellow; claws, black.

Habitat: New South Wales.



STRIX TENEBRICOSUS (Gould)
Cott. Owl

G. J. E. B. 1851. Pl. 2

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PLATE XXX.

STRIX DELICATULUS (*Gould*).

DELICATE OWL.

THE present species is considerably smaller than its congeners, and has a much wider distribution. New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia constitute its principal home, and it is also found in Queensland, and the north coast, as well as in several of the islands of the Pacific.

Its habits are so like those of the other members of the same genus, that no separate description is necessary.

The facial disc is white, margined with reddish-buff, which colour also surrounds the eyes; upper surface, light grey, marked with spots of mingled white and black; wings and tail-feathers, light buff, margined with dark brown; under surface, white, sparingly spotted with brown; irides, grey; bill, horn-colour; legs and feet, yellow; claws, black.

Habitats: All the eastern colonies, as well as South Australia, and several islands in the Pacific.



STRIX DECAUCTUS (Caud.)
Delicate Owl

A. C. Brewster. Faint

MOTEL
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PLATE XXXI.

GENUS CIRCUS (*Lacépède*).

TWO Harriers are found in Australia, both assimilating to those in other parts of the world.

CIRCUS ASSIMILIS (*Jard. and Selb.*)

ALLIED HARRIER.

THIS species is found in all the southern colonies of Australia, and also in Tasmania, frequenting marshy places.

It feeds on birds and small quadrupeds, and also on lizards and other reptiles. It seldom flies high, but generally skims along near the surface of the ground, uttering meanwhile a loud shrill whistle.

The eggs, which are pure white in colour, are one and seven-eighths inches long by one and a half inches wide.

The female is larger than the male, and also differs in the markings being less well defined.

Head and upper surface, dark brown; face, buffy-white, with a dark line down the centre of each feather; wings, dark brown, the primaries having a spot of black; tail, brownish-grey, the base being greyish-white; under surface, light buff, each feather with a streak of reddish-brown down the centre; irides, legs, and feet, yellow; bill and claws, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

CIRCUS JARDINII (*Gould*).

JARDINE'S HARRIER.

THE *Circus Jardinii* is found in all the eastern portion of Australia, including the interior of South Australia.

It differs from all the other Harriers in the spotted plumage, but in the character of the country frequented, and also in the kind of food, it assimilates closely to them.

As is usual with these birds, the female is considerably larger and more powerful than the male.

The head, cheeks, and ear-coverts are dark chestnut, each feather with a mark of brown down the centre; back, grey; under surface, light chestnut, each feather spotted with white; wing-feathers, brownish-grey, with spots of white; tail, alternately barred with grey and dark brown; upper tail coverts, brown; irides, yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish-yellow.

Habitats: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.



1. CIRCUS ASSIMILIS (Lund & Selb)
African Harrier

2. CIRCUS JARDINII (Gould)
African Harrier

PLATE XXXII.

TINNUNCULUS CENCHROIDES.

NANKEEN KESTREL.

THIS bird bears a great resemblance in habits and economy to the European Kestrel, differing from it principally in its easier and more graceful flight.

It is found in almost every part of Australia.

During October and November it deposits four eggs in a hollow trunk of a tree, no nest being constructed. The eggs, which are light chestnut in colour, freckled with a darker tint, are one inch and five-eighths long and one inch and a quarter broad.

The male has the forehead white; the crown of the head, upper surface, and wing-coverts, cinnamon-red, with a stripe of dark brown on each feather; rest of wing-feathers dark brown, slightly margined with white; tail, grey, tipped with white, and crossed near the extremity by a band of black; sides of the head and ear-coverts, greyish-white; face and under surface, white, the shafts of the feathers on the chest being black; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, yellow.

Habitat: All Australia, more or less.

GENUS BAZA (*Hodgson*).

THREE members of this genus inhabit India and the adjacent islands, and one is found in Australia.

BAZA SUBCRISTATA (*Gould*).

CRESTED HAWK.

THIS is a very rare species, its range being restricted to the northern part of New South Wales, and the southern part of Queensland. It inhabits flat open country.

It feeds on insects of various kinds, many of which are obtained in the air.

The sexes do not differ in plumage.

The head, ear-coverts, and upper part of back, are light brownish-grey; the crest of the head, blackish-brown; back, brown; wings, blackish-grey; tail, brownish-grey; throat and chest, greyish-white; rest of under surface, reddish-buff, crossed by irregular bars of darker colour; irides, legs, and feet, yellow; bill and claws, black.

Habitats: Parts of New South Wales, and Queensland.





1. TINNUNCULUS CENCHROIDES
Nankeen Kestrel.

2. BAZA SUBCRISTATA Gould
Crested Hawk

PLATE XXXIII.

GENUS ELANUS (*Savigny*).

MEMBERS of the genus *Elanus* inhabit Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America, and two are also found in Australia.

ELANUS AXILLARIS.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE.

THE north coast of Australia is the chief home of this bird, but it also, during the summer, visits the more southern portions, never, however, going as far south as Tasmania.

It remains generally in the air, where it captures many insects, which, together with reptiles, constitute its food. It is thus a great benefit to the districts which it visits, as, during the hot weather, it rids them of a large number of noxious insects, which would otherwise become almost intolerable.

The female is very similar in colouring to the male.

The forehead and under surface are white; a line over the eye, and a mark extending from the shoulder over the greater portion of the wings are black; upper surface, light grey; wings and tail, darker grey; irides, orange; bill, black; feet, yellow.

Habitats: North coast of Australia, and, during the summer, the southern portion also.

ELANUS SCRIPTUS (*Gould*).

LETTER-WINGED KITE.

IT is rather curious to note to what trivial circumstances a great many birds owe their names. The present species, for instance, was called Letter-winged Kite from the fact that, when the wing is extended, the black mark on the upper surface of the wing resembles a V.

It is found in the interior of Australia, associating in companies of from twenty to thirty. Besides the insects and reptiles on which its congener, *Elanus Axillaris*, subsists, it also feeds on rats, bandicoots, and other small animals. Some time after feeding, it ejects from its stomach small round pellets, composed of the fur of the animals which it has eaten. These pellets are used to line the nest, which is outwardly constructed of sticks.

Four or five eggs are laid, the average length being one inch and three-quarters, and the breadth one inch and three-eighths. In colour they are white, spotted with reddish-brown. Strange to say, it is quite easy to remove these marks by wetting them.

The sexes are alike in colour.

The forehead is white; upper surface, dark grey; wing-feathers, brownish-grey, secondaries margined with white; tail, grey, the outer feathers tinged with brown; under surface, greyish-white; on the under surface of the wing is a broad mark of black, in the form of the letter V; irides, reddish-orange; bill, black; feet, yellow.

Habitat: Interior of Australia.



1. ELANUS AXILLARIS.
Black-shouldered Kite.

2. ELANUS SCRIPTUS. Gould.
Letter-winged Kite.

J. J. Bromowski fecit

PLATE XXXIV.

GENUS MILVUS (*Cuvier*).

TWO species of the genus *Milvus* inhabit Australia.

MILVUS AFFINIS (*Gould*).

ALLIED KITE.

THE whole of the Australian continent, and part of India, together with the islands between these countries, constitute the habitat of this bird. It is not found in Tasmania.

It is very fearless in disposition, a circumstance which causes it to be looked upon with great disfavour by the farmers, as it visits their fowl yards and carries off poultry.

It feeds on any sort of animal food obtainable, and plays an important part in getting rid of all kinds of refuse of houses.

Unlike the European Kite, it never flies high, but remains near the ground on the lookout for food.

The sexes do not differ materially either in size or plumage.

The head and back of the neck are reddish-buff, with a mark of black on the centre of each feather; upper surface rich brown, tinged with red on the wing-coverts, the shaft of each feather being black; primaries brown, margined with black, the rest of the wing-feathers dark brown; tail brown, each feather tipped with greyish-white; throat, very light buff, the rest of the under surface dark brownish-buff, the shafts of all the feathers being black; bill, black at the tip, and light buff at the base; irides, reddish-brown; feet, yellow.

Habitats: All the Australian continent, also part of India, and many of the Indian Islands,

MILVUS ISURUS (*Gould*).

SQUARE-TAILED KITE.

THE present species, which is readily distinguishable from all the other Kites by the square form of the tail, is found in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, frequenting both the forest country and the open plains. Specimens have also been procured in New Zealand.

Unlike the *Milvus Affinis*, it flies very high, and sometimes very swiftly. The food consists of birds, reptiles, and small *Mammalia*.

October and November constitute the period of incubation, during which time two eggs are laid in a nest constructed of sticks, lined with leaves and soft bark. The eggs, the length of which is one inch and eleven lines, and the breadth one inch and seven lines, are in colour buffy-white, spotted and blotched with reddish-brown.

The female is larger than the male, but does not differ in colouring.

The head and ear-coverts are greyish-white, each feather marked in the centre and tipped with black; upper surface, dark brown; wing feathers, dark brown, margined with light brown; rump and upper tail-coverts, white, crossed by bands of brown; tail, brownish-grey, tipped with black, and crossed by narrow lines of the same colour; back and sides of the neck and under surface, fawn colour, the feathers of the neck, chest, and flanks having a mark of black in the centre, and those of the abdomen a faint line of reddish-brown; tip of the bill, black; base, greyish-white; irides, dark red; feet, light yellow.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand.



1 MILVUS AFFINIS (Gould).
Allied Kite.

2 MILVUS ISURUS (Gould).
Square-tailed Kite.

G. J. Brinowski, Fecit.

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PLATE XXXV.

GENUS GYPOICTINIA (*Kaup*).

THIS is a generic appellation suggested by Kaup, for a bird which Gould calls *Buteo Melanosternon*, but which differs somewhat from the members of that form.

GYPOICTINIA MELANOSTERNON (*Kaup*).

BLACK-BREASTED BUZZARD.

ALTHOUGH undoubtedly a Buzzard, this species differs to a certain extent from the European form, and the title *Gypoictinia* has therefore been invented for it.

It is found in the southern colonies of Australia, but is not by any means common.

It feeds on every description of animal matter, in discovering which it displays remarkable powers of scent. It is said that the Black-breasted Buzzard will drive an Emu off her nest, and devour the eggs, first dropping a stone from above to break them. This is, however, not well authenticated.

Except for the slightly larger size of the female, there is no difference between the sexes.

The head, ear-coverts, throat, chest, and centre of abdomen, black, the feathers of the abdomen tipped with greyish-white; flanks and under tail-coverts, dark reddish-brown, each feather with a mark of black in the centre; back of the neck, chestnut-red, with black shafts; shoulders, buffy-white; back, dark blackish-brown, margined with chestnut-brown; primaries, white at the base, black for the remainder of the length; rest of wing-feathers and tail, brownish-black; irides, dark reddish-brown; bill, dark grey at the tip, buffy-white at the base; legs and feet, yellow.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



GYPOICTINIA MELANOSTERNON (Kaup).
Black-breasted Buzzard

Ed. Granger. F. 10.

PLATE XXXVI.

GENUS LEUCOSPIZA (*Kaup*).

THE two species of this form are closely allied to the genus *Astur*.

LEUCOSPIZA RAII (*Kaup*).

NEW HOLLAND GOSHAWK.

THE brushes near the coast of New South Wales, particularly about the Hunter and Richmond Rivers, are inhabited by this bird, mentioned by Latham under the title of *Falco Clarus*.

On account of its scarcity and shy habits, almost nothing is known of its economy.

In outward appearance the sexes are alike, except for the superior size of the female.

The upper surface is grey; wings, dark brown; under surface, white, crossed by irregular lines of black; irides, dark red; base of bill, white; tip, black; legs and feet, yellow.

Habitat: New South Wales.

LEUCOSPIZA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ.

WHITE GOSHAWK.

FOR many years it was a strongly disputed point among naturalists as to whether this was a distinct species, or an albino variety of *Leucospiza Raii*. In form and size they are identical, and, as far as is known, in habits; but while this bird is entirely white, its congener has the back grey. It is, however, now almost certain that they are distinct. Cuvier, whose great name would give a certain amount of probability to any theory, considered that, in all likelihood, this was originally an albino, but had become permanent, obtaining the power of perpetuating its white plumage.

It is found in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

As is usually the case with raptorial birds, the female is the larger.

The whole of the plumage is white; irides, red; bill, black; legs and feet, yellow.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.



1. LEUCOSPIZA RAIL.
New Holland Goshawk.

2. LEUCOSPIZA NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE (Kaup.)
White Goshawk

G J Bronowski, Fact &

PLATE XXXVII.

GENUS ASTUR (*Lacépède*).

THREE species of this form inhabit Australia.

ASTUR RADIATUS.

RADIATED GOSHAWK.

THIS, the largest of the three Goshawks indigenous to Australia, is found among the dense bushes bordering the coast of New South Wales, especially in the vicinity of the northern rivers.

It feeds on birds and reptiles, and, like the other members of the genus is very destructive to the poultry of the farmers.

In outward appearance the sexes are alike, with the usual exception of the smaller size of the male.

The head, neck, and under surface are brownish-grey, with irregular marks of black and rust-red; wing-coverts, blackish-brown, margined with rufous, the rest of the wings, brown, marked irregularly with blackish-brown; tail, reddish-brown, crossed by darker bars; thighs, rust-red; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, grey; legs and feet, brownish-grey.

Habitat: New South Wales.

ASTUR APPROXIMANS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK.

DIFFERENT specimens of the Australian Goshawk were originally described as three distinct birds, under the titles of *Astur Radiatus*, *Astur Fasciatus*, and *Astur Approximas*, but Gould, on examination, found that the three were, in reality, the young male, the adult male, and the female. As the other two names were already appropriated, he retained that of *Astur Approximans* for the whole species.

It is found in all the colonies from the southern portion of Queensland to South Australia, and also in Tasmania.

The food consists of birds and small mammalia, and, like its two congeners, it creates great havoc among the fowl yards of the farmers.

It breeds in August and the three following months, a large nest being constructed of sticks, lined with leaves, and placed on a branch of a tree, usually in the vicinity of water. Three eggs are laid, the length of which is one inch and five-sixths and the breadth one inch and five-twelfths. In colour they are greyish-white, with large, irregular blotches of dark buff.

The head is leaden-grey; the upper surface, wings, and tail, dark brown; the inner webs of the primaries light rufous, barred with dark brown; under surface and thighs, bluish-grey, crossed by numerous irregular brown *fasciæ*; line above the eye, black; bill, legs, and feet, brownish-grey.

Habitats; Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.



ASTUR RADIATUS

Common Falcon

ASTUR APPROXIMANS

American Falcon

W. B. T. 1877

PLATE XXXVIII.

ASTUR CRUENTUS (*Gould*).

WEST AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA is the chief home of the present species, but it is also found on the North Coast, and in some of the Indian Islands.

In the class of food on which it subsists, and the method of obtaining it, this bird resembles the other members of the genus.

The period of nidification extends from October to the end of December, three eggs being laid in a nest composed of sticks, lined with leaves.

The upper surface and wings are dark brown, each feather tipped with lighter colour; tail, greyish-brown, barred with dark brown; under surface, rufous, marked with buffy-white; irides, light brown; bill, blackish-brown; legs and feet, grey.

Habitats: Western Australia, North Coast, and islands to the northward.

GENUS ACCIPITER (*Brisson*).

ONLY one member of the genus *Accipiter* is found in Australia.

ACCIPITER TORQUATUS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

COLLARED SPARROW-HAWK.

EVERY part of Australia, as well as Tasmania, is frequented by the Collared Sparrow-Hawk though it is most abundant in New South Wales and Victoria.

Its exceedingly rapid flight and great agility enable it to capture small birds with the greatest ease, the male especially, although only about half the size of the female, being very bold and active. Its greatest enemies are the Magpies, several of which may often be seen chasing a Hawk and attacking him from all sides.

During August and the three following months, three eggs are laid in a nest constructed of sticks and lined with fine roots and leaves. The eggs are one inch and a-half long by one inch and a-sixth broad, and in colour are bluish-white, blotched with buff or brown.

The head, upper surface, wings, and tail are dark brownish-grey; back of the neck and under surface, light reddish-brown, crossed by numerous bars of greyish-white; throat, grey; irides, grey; bill, brownish-black; legs and feet, yellow.

Habitats: All parts of Australia and Tasmania.



1. *FASTER ORIENTUS* (Scud.)
Reddish-brown, Golden

2. *ACCIPITER T. POLIATUS* (Linn.)
Collared, Golden, Black

By E. B. ...

PLATE XXXIX.

GENUS HIERACIDEA.

ONE species of the above genus inhabits the eastern portion of Australia, and another the western.

HIERACIDEA OCCIDENTALIS (*Gould*).

WESTERN BROWN HAWK.

THIS species is found in South and Western Australia, the range extending right up to the North-West Coast.

As might be inferred from the fact that the food consists of frogs, lizards, and such other animals, it frequents principally swampy places. It also captures the smaller kinds of birds, and, in fact, will eat any kind of flesh obtainable.

During the months of September and October from two to four eggs are laid in a nest which is composed of sticks, and placed among the thick foliage of a high tree. The eggs are generally buffy-white, blotched with rich brown, but sometimes the latter colour pervades the whole surface. Their length is two inches, and the breadth one and a-half inch.

The crown of the head and upper surface are rust-red, becoming darker on the rump, where each feather is tipped with greyish-white; wings, dark brown, the primaries margined with greyish-white, and the wing-coverts with light rufous; tail, dark brown, crossed by irregular bars of reddish-brown, and tipped with buffy-white; ear-coverts, brownish-grey; forehead, white; under surface, very pale buffy-white, each feather with a fine stripe of reddish-brown; irides, red; bill, bluish lead-colour; legs and feet, ashy-grey.

Habitats : South and Western Australia.

HIERACIDEA BERIGORA (*Gould*).

BROWN HAWK.

THE present bird somewhat resembles its congener, but is considerably larger, and has the general plumage darker.

It is found in considerable abundance in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, where, although to a certain extent destructive to the poultry, it still does great service to the farmers by ridding them of the caterpillars and other noxious insects. During seasons in which these are numerous it is seen in flocks of hundreds, though usually it associates in pairs.

It breeds in October and November, two or three eggs being laid in a nest built of sticks, lined with soft bark and leaves. The eggs are two inches and a-sixth long, by one inch and a-half broad, and in colour are buffy-white, irregularly marked with reddish-brown.

The head and ear-coverts are ferruginous brown, the ear-coverts bounded beneath by a line of black; back, wings, and tail, dark brown, the wing-feathers margined with light reddish-brown, and the tail barred with the same colour; under surface, light buff, becoming much darker on the flanks, vent, and under tail-coverts, and each feather marked with reddish-brown; irides, dark red; bill, legs, and feet, grey.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

2



1. HIERACIDEA OCCIDENTALIS (Gould.)
Western Brown Hawk

2. HIERACIDEA BERIGORA
Brown Hawk

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PLATE XL.

GENUS FALCO.

ALMOST every part of the world is inhabited by one or more members of this genus.

FALCO HYPOLEUCUS (*Gould*).

GREY FALCON.

THE Grey Falcon is a native of South and Western Australia, being chiefly found in the interior, in mountainous and rocky regions.

It is so rare that next to nothing has been discovered of its characteristics and habits.

Although, in structure, it resembles the European species, it is much less powerful, but in point of fierceness is equal, perhaps, to any of the *Raptorial* birds.

The whole of the upper and under surface and wings is grey, each feather marked with black; primaries margined with brownish-black; tail, brownish-grey, barred with black; irides, legs, and feet, reddish-brown; bill, yellow, tipped with black.

Habitats: South and Western Australia.

FALCO LUNULATUS (*Lath.*)

WHITE-FRONTED FALCON.

THE *Falco Lunulatus*, one of the oldest known and at the same time the smallest of the Australian Falcons, is an inhabitant of Tasmania and all the southern part of Australia, and rare specimens have also been procured on the North Coast.

It subsists on small birds, especially quails, and also on insects.

The eggs, which are one inch and five-sixths long, by one inch and a third broad, are laid in a large nest built of sticks, lined with bark, and placed on one of the topmost branches of a lofty tree. They are light buff colour, blotched and spotted with darker colour.

The forehead is reddish-buff; the crown of the head, ear-coverts, upper surface, and wings, dark greyish-brown, the internal webs of the primaries marked with buff; two centre tail-feathers, grey, barred with black, the remainder alternate dark grey and reddish-chestnut; throat and chest, buffy-white; rest of under surface, dark reddish-brown, marked on the flanks with brownish-black; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, reddish-brown.

Habitats: Tasmania and southern part of Australia, also, but rarely, the North Coast.



FALCO HYPOLEUCUS (Gould)
Grey Falcon

2 FALCO LUNULATUS (Lacép.)
White-fronted Falcon

J. B. B. B. B.

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PLATE XLI.

FALCO MELANOGENYS (*Gould*).

BLACK-CHEEKED FALCON.

THE Black-cheeked Falcon is distributed over the greater part of Australia and Tasmania, wherever the rocky creeks and gullies, which it frequents, are to be found.

Its food consists for the most part of other birds, which it captures after the manner of the Falcons of the Old World, very often carrying off a bird more than twice its own weight.

During the spring months it lays two eggs in a nest built among well-nigh inaccessible rocks. The colour of the eggs is buff, largely blotched with reddish-brown. In length they are two inches and one line, and in breadth one inch and seven and a-half lines.

The female is much larger than the male, but does not differ materially in plumage.

The crown of the head is dull brown; cheeks and forehead, black; upper surface and wings, brownish-black, margined with brownish-grey; centre wing feathers barred alternately with bluish-grey and black, the two next to the centre barred with white and buff; throat and under surface, buffy-white; the abdomen barred with brown; irides, blackish-brown; bill, brown at the base, black at the tip; legs and feet, orange.

Habitats: Australia and Tasmania.

FALCO SUBNIGER (*G. R. Gray*).

BLACK FALCON.

THIS little-known bird is an inhabitant of the mountainous districts of the interior of Australia. It is also found in New Zealand.

It feeds on other birds, in capturing which it displays great skill and strength.

Save the usual difference in size, the sexes are alike in outward appearance.

The whole of the plumage is black, becoming lighter on the edges of the feathers; chin, white; irides, blackish-brown; bill, lead-colour; legs and feet, yellowish-white.

Habitat: Interior of Australia.



1 FALCO MELANOGENYS (Gould.)
Black-cheeked Falcon

2 FALCO SUBNIGER G. & Gr.
Black Falcon

PLATE XLII.

GENUS PANDION.

THE Ospreys of Europe and America are represented in Australia by one species, *Pandion Leucocephalus*.

PANDION LEUCOCEPHALUS (*Gould*).

WHITE-HEADED OSPREY.

THE range of the species under notice extends over pretty well the whole of Australia and Tasmania, though it is nowhere found in any great abundance. It feeds on fish, and on this account is always found either near the sea, or in the close vicinity of rivers and lakes.

The manner of obtaining food is the same as that of the Old World Osprey. It circles about in the air at a considerable height, and on perceiving a fish darts down with great swiftness and captures it, even from beneath the surface of the water.

Of its flight, Gould says:—"When near the water its flight is heavy and flapping; but when soaring aloft at a great altitude its actions are the most easy and graceful imaginable; at one moment it appears motionless, and at another performs a series of beautiful curves and circles, apparently for mere enjoyment."

The nest, which sometimes measures as much as sixteen feet in circumference, is placed generally on an almost inaccessible rock, but sometimes on the top of a high tree. It is constructed of thick sticks, lined with seaweed, or thin twigs and grass. Two eggs are laid, the length of which is two and five-twelfth inches, and the breadth one and three-quarter inches. The ground colour is dirty yellowish-white, with blotches of very dark reddish-brown; and in some cases, also, there are faint marks of purple.

The head, back of the neck, throat, and chest, are white, each feather with a mark of brown down the centre; abdomen, white; feathers of the back, wings, and tail, blackish-brown, margined with grey; primaries, black; irides, bright red; bill, black; legs and feet, reddish-brown.

Habitats: Australia and Tasmania.



PANTON LEUTOPHALLUS 1813
White-headed Ceryle

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PLATE XLIII.

GENUS HALIASTUR (*Selby*).

THIS form is confined to India, the Indian Islands, and Australia. Two species are found in the latter country.

HALIASTUR LEUCOSTERNUS (*Gould*).

WHITE-BREASTED SEA EAGLE.

THE *Haliastur Leucosternus* is found on the north and north-eastern coast of Australia, never going further south than about the latitude of the Hunter River. It also inhabits some of the islands to the north of the continent.

It subsists entirely on fish, which it captures generally by swooping down and seizing them with its claws, though sometimes it goes underneath the surface of the water. The prey is usually borne off to a branch of a tree overhanging the water, but occasionally is devoured while the bird circles round in the air.

During the breeding season, which lasts from the end of June to the beginning of September, a nest of sticks is constructed in which are laid two or three greyish-white eggs, freckled, and streaked with reddish-brown. The average length is two and a-sixth inches, and the breadth one and two-third inch.

The head, neck, and under surface are white; feathers of the back, wings, tail, and upper and under tail-coverts, rich chestnut, tipped with black; thighs, chestnut; irides, legs, and feet, yellow; bill, light greyish-white.

Habitats; North and north-east coasts of Australia, and islands to the north.



HALIASTUR LEUCOSTERNUS (Gould.)
White-breasted Sea-Eagle

Geo. Brownes sk. Feck.

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PLATE XLIV.

HALIASTUR SPHENURUS.

WHISTLING EAGLE.

THE Whistling Eagle, so called on account of the shrill whistle uttered when flying, is found in all parts of Australia; and also, but more rarely, in Tasmania.

It feeds on reptiles, small quadrupeds, and every kind of carrion, in search of which latter it may often be seen in the close vicinity of rivers and lakes.

During the months of November and December, either one or two eggs are laid in a nest built on one of the branches of a high tree, and constructed of sticks and thin roots. The eggs are bluish-white, faintly marked with brown, and are two and a-quarter inches long by one and three-quarter inch broad.

Gould mentions that he once found a nest of this species, with that of the *Amadine Lathamii* built on the side, the two birds sitting on their eggs in the greatest harmony.

The male is smaller than the female, but is the same in colouring.

The head, neck, and under surface are light greyish-brown, each feather tipped with reddish-brown; feathers of back and wings, blackish-brown, margined with greyish-white; tail, greyish-brown, rounded at the end; bill, brown; irides, blackish-brown; legs and feet, light reddish-brown.

Habitats: Australia and Tasmania.



HALIETUR SPHEN. R. 5
Whistling sparrow

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PLATE XLV.

GENUS POLIOAËTUS (*Kaup*).

ONE species of this genus inhabits Australia.

POLIOAËTUS LEUCOGASTER.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA EAGLE.

THE whole of the coast-line of Australia, as well as the islands adjacent, constitute the habitat of this bird, one of the finest of all the Eagle tribe.

Notwithstanding its size, it seldom captures living prey, but feeds almost entirely on the fish which are left on the beach at low tide. It sometimes, however, captures Petrels and other marine birds.

It is very bold and fearless in disposition, and although it is almost entirely extirpated where civilisation has set her seal, it may sometimes, though rarely, be seen in the neighbourhood of Sydney and other seaport towns.

The top of a high tree, or, where there are none such, the surface of a large rock, is usually chosen as the site for the nest, which is constructed of sticks. The eggs, two in number, are in length two and three-quarter inches and in breadth one and a-quarter inch. They are buffy-white, spotted with reddish-brown.

The sexes do not differ in plumage.

The head, neck, and abdomen are light brownish-buff; chest, white; primaries and base of the tail, blackish-brown; tip of the tail, light brown; wings and back, blackish-brown, each feather margined with grey; irides, red; bill, grey; legs and feet, yellowish-brown.

Habitats: The Australian coast, and adjacent islands.



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PLATE XLVI.

GENUS HIERAËTUS (*Kaup*).

ONLY one bird of this form has been found in Australia.

HIERAËTUS MORPHNOÏDES (*Kaup*).

LITTLE EAGLE.

THE interior of Australia is inhabited, though not to a large extent, by the present species, which represents here the *Hieraëtus Pennatus* of Europe.

It feeds on every kind of carrion, and also on the smaller species of mammalia.

During the season of incubation, a single egg is laid in a large nest, which is built on a horizontal branch of a high tree. The colour is greyish-white, blotched with brown and sometimes pale purple. The length is two and one-sixth inches and the breadth one and three-quarter inch.

The head, neck, under surface, and thighs are mottled white and rufous; wing-coverts, brownish-grey; back and wings, blackish-brown; space round the eye, under tail-coverts, and tail, brownish-grey, the tail barred with brown; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; feet, yellow.

Habitat: Interior of Australia.





HIERAETUS MORPHNIDES *Forst.*
Common Falcon

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PLATE XLVII.

GENUS AQUILA (*Brisson*).

THE Australian representative of the great Golden Eagle is the *Aquila Audax*.

AQUILA AUDAX (*G. R. Gray*).

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE.

BY far the largest and finest of all the Australian raptorial birds is the Wedge-tailed Eagle, an inhabitant of the whole of the southern portion of Australia, and also of Tasmania and the adjacent small islands.

It feeds on every kind of flesh, and displays marvellous strength in capturing animals and birds. Wallabies, small kangaroos, sheep, and other mammalia, as well as most of the larger kinds of birds, are all equally preyed upon. It also does not despise carrion, and it is a common occurrence in some parts to see from twenty to fifty perched on, or around the carcass of a dead bullock.

The topmost branches of very high trees are chosen as a site on which to build their large nests of boughs and sticks. A single egg is laid, three inches long and two and a-half inches broad. The colour is light buff, with patches of pale purple and spots of yellowish-brown.

The head, throat, under and upper surfaces, are brownish-black, the extremities marked, particularly on the wing-coverts, with reddish-brown; back of the neck, rusty-red; wing and tail-feathers, brownish-black, margined with grey; irides, dark brown; bill, horn-colour at the base, brown at the tips; feet, yellow; claws, black.

Habitats: Southern part of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

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THE END.



Puffinus pacificus
Wedge-tailed Shearwater

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